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Human. Yes, this, of course, is a big difference, and when I calculate this difference, I can say with good reason that wherever my stormtroopers, my party comrades, or SS men hold the front, they perform their duties exemplarily. Thus, he emphasized the unity of classes and estates in enduring the hardships caused by the war.

In the same speech, the Fuhrer claimed that Stalingrad had no fundamental significance for him: "The fact that I do not act as others would like is explained by this: I first think about what others most likely want, and then I do fundamentally different. If Herr Stalin apparently expected us to strike in the center, then I did not want to attack there at all, not so much because Herr Stalin probably thought so, but because it was not so important to me. . I wanted to go to the Volga, and in a certain place, near a certain city. By chance, it bears the name of Stalin himself, but do not think that I was eager to go there for this reason.

In fact, this city could be called anything. It is important only because it is an important point, because there we cut off transport routes through which 30 million tons of cargo are transported, including 9 million tons of oil. All the wheat flowed there from the gigantic regions of Ukraine, Cuba, and then to be transported to the north. Manganese ore was mined there. There was a gigantic staging post. I wanted to capture it all. And you know, we are modest people, we don't need much, that's what we got; there were all left unaccounted for

some very small places.

Some say: why don't you fight there? Yes, because I do not want to have a second Verdun there, but I prefer to achieve this with the help of

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to all small shock groups. Time doesn't matter. Now not a single ship sails along the Volga - here  
what's most important"

In this speech, Hitler made the last mention of the losses of the Wehrmacht. In the future, they increased sharply, mainly due to the "missing" - prisoners, and the Fuhrer stopped publicly quoting these unpleasant figures. And Goebbels ordered that no more obituaries of soldiers and officers who died at the front be published in the newspapers so that the mourning framework would not have an oppressive effect on the morale of the Germans.

Remembering Stalingrad, in the fall of 1944, Hitler told his otolaryngologist 5. Giesing: "It cannot be said that our intelligence was mistaken and we were not informed about the large concentration of Russian troops on the left bank of the Volga. Nor can it be said that we were caught unawares by the sudden advance of the Russians or by the vagaries of the weather. I took everything into account and was determined to fight that winter and achieve decisive success. But when the situation at Stalingrad worsened in December 1942, I was let down by aviation, although Goering promised that he could guarantee the entire supply of the 6th Army for at least 6-8 weeks ... In addition, at the most critical time near Stalingrad When the Italians from above and the Romanians from below could not hold the front, I was not there, as I was on my way on my special train. For about 24 hours I could not lead myself, and when I learned about the misfortune, it was too late.

Thus, Hitler was inclined to attribute the catastrophe at Stalingrad to an unfortunate set of circumstances. The argument about the 24 hours lost because of his move is hardly solid. Even in these lost days, he almost certainly

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I still would not have dared to give an order for the immediate withdrawal of the 6th Army from the water, which could still save the situation. No matter what he said on this score, this city, which had enormous symbolic and strategic importance, meant too much to the Fuhrer. It was with the control of this city that Hitler pinned his last hopes of achieving decisive success in Russia. And on the first day of the Soviet offensive, when the scale of the catastrophe was not yet completely clear, he would never have given the order to leave Stalingrad.

It is interesting that, contrary to popular belief, the Soviet troops, who on November 19, 1942, launched a counteroffensive near Stalingrad, which, as is often said, decided the outcome of the Second World War, still have not learned how to fight at the level of the Wehrmacht. A special department of the Stalingrad Front reported on that day: "Personnel in the offensive are poorly camouflaged, moving crowded and at full height; if it weren't for the cloudiness, which prevents the enemy from widely using aviation, then our units would have suffered heavy losses.

Few people know that simultaneously with the counteroffensive near Stalingrad, on November 25, 1942,

troops of the Western and Kalinin fronts, numbering 19 million people, more than 24 thousand guns and mortars, 3500 tanks and 1100 aircraft, under the leadership of Georgy Zhukov, launched Operation Mars - an attack on the Rzhev bridgehead, which ended in failure. The shock groups were surrounded or only with great difficulty broke through to their own, losing up to half a million people and 1850 tanks. After its failure, Zhukov and other Soviet military leaders began to present the operation "Mars" as a purely secondary one, directed

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nuyu to divert the German forces, which could otherwise participate in the offensive to deblock the Stalingrad group. However, in fact, Operation Mars was planned simultaneously with the Stalingrad counteroffensive and pursued goals no less, and even more decisive - the defeat of Army Group Center, access to the Baltic Sea and the borders of East Prussia. And even more forces and funds were allocated for it than for Operation Saturn. And only after the failure of the attack on Rzhev, a legend was born about the supposedly auxiliary role of this operation. And last but not least, the success of the Germans near Rzhev was determined by the fact that only German troops fought here, while in the south the main blow fell on the less capable German allies - the Romanians, and then on the Italians.

Many myths are also associated with the Battle of Kursk, during which the largest tank battles of the Second World War took place. Our historiography has established the view that Hitler attached as much decisive importance to the Battle of Kursk as he did to the capture of Moscow in 1941 and Stalingrad in 1942. As if the Germans, having defeated the Soviet troops near Kursk, would again have to march on Moscow and the Caucasus. In fact, Operation Citadel pursued rather limited goals. Hitler was going to cut off the Kursk salient, destroy the Soviet troops stationed there, and thereby weaken the Red Army so much that it could not launch a general offensive in 1943. Hitler intended to transfer the freed troops to Italy to repel the expected Allied invasion, which began even during Operation Citadel with a landing in Sicily. Afterbirth

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This action caused the transfer of one SS Panzer division to Italy from the Citadel front, but it is unlikely that it in itself caused an end to the advance on Kursk.

I note that during the "Citadel" it was supposed to encircle 8-10 Soviet armies at once. The Wehrmacht had never surrounded such a number of enemy troops during one operation, and it was hardly possible at all with the limited forces that were allocated for Operation Citadel. It is possible that in the depths of their souls, Hitler and his field marshals understood that they would not be able to fulfill their plans and that in reality they could only try to weaken the Soviet troops opposed to the Germans on the Citadel front.

The assertions of Soviet marshals and historians that the deliberate defense of the Red Army on the Kursk ledge was a model of military art and ensured its complete and unconditional victory are very far from reality. In fact, it turned out that the Soviet side, which had two to two and a half times more people and equipment, voluntarily gave the initiative to the enemy, who thereby got the opportunity to strike at the places he had chosen and force the Red Army to defend in an unfavorable grouping and dutifully wait when the enemy goes on the offensive, postponing his own offensive, for which everything was already in place. As a result, both in terms of men and tanks, the ratio of losses was extremely unfavorable for the Soviet side. During the attack on Kursk from 5 to 16 July 1943, Army Group South lost irretrievably 175 tanks and assault guns, while Army Group Center lost 87 tanks and assault guns from 5 to 12 July. The troops of the Voronezh and Central fronts during Kur

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In the midst of the defensive operation, 1,614 tanks and self-propelled guns were irretrievably lost. The losses of the Red Army killed and wounded in July and August 1943 were the largest in the entire war. The offensive of the Red Army had to be launched in unfavorable groupings that had developed during the defensive battle, and as a result it was not possible to defeat and encircle the German troops, but only to push them out of the Orlovsky and Belgorod-Kharkov bridgeheads.

The statement that in the famous tank battle near Prokhorovka on July 12, 1943, the Germans lost 500 or 400 tanks is nothing more than a poetic exaggeration contained in the reports of Soviet tank commanders, who feared Stalin's wrath for a mediocre battle. In fact, the 2nd German SS Panzer Corps, which opposed the Soviet 5th Guards Tank Army near Prokhorovka, irretrievably lost only 5 tanks, and another 58 tanks and 12 assault guns were damaged, while the irretrievable losses of only 3 corps of the 5th 1st Guards Tank Army, according to Soviet reports, coinciding in this case with the German ones, at least 334 tanks and self-propelled guns. And this despite the fact that the Soviet side had an almost fourfold superiority - together with two corps attached to the miarmy of P. Rotmistrov, tank and mechanized - up to 1000 units of armored vehicles against no more than 273 from the Germans. Such an unfavorable ratio of irretrievable losses in tanks was explained by the fact that the battlefield was left to the Germans. In addition, the Red Army was very poorly evacuated under broken tanks.

The decision to stop the attack on Kursk was made by the German command without any connection with the Prokhorov battle and defeat,

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which both German shock groups allegedly suffered as a result of the actions of the Soviet troops. In reality, the decisive role in the disruption of the Citadel was played by the Soviet counter-offensive on the Oryol ledge, which began on July 12. On July 11, Soviet reconnaissance in force took place here, and it became clear to the German command that the Citadel would have to be turned off. According to Hitler's adjutant, Lieutenant Colonel von Belov, Operation Citadel was terminated due to the onset of an offensive by Soviet troops in the Oryol direction: "On July 12, as a result of the Russian offensive, a completely new situation arose on the ledge of our front line near Orel. On July 13, Hitler called Kluge and Manstein to his place and discussed the filming of the continuation of The Citadel. Manstein spoke out categorically in favor of this, while Kluge wanted to suspend the offensive operation. The Russian offensive was fully affecting his sector of the front, and he doubted whether he would be able to resist. After a long discussion, Hitler decided to stop the offensive. Thus, the last German offensive operation on the Eastern Front failed.

Also, an entry in the diary of the Supreme High Command of the Wehrmacht dated July 11, 1943 testifies

testifies: "In the course of Operation Citadel, the Russian shock wedge was narrowed and the front near Belgorod was cleared. The 9th Army advanced only 2-5 km due to the stubborn resistance of the enemy. Since a quick success was not achieved, the point now is to inflict maximum damage on the enemy with minimal own losses. Thus, in the last days of the "Citadel" it was only about the maximum exhaustion of the opposing army groups "South" of the Soviet troops, and not about their destruction.

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research institutes. Nevertheless, the 2nd SS Panzer Corps and other formations continued to advance until July 16, capturing Prokhorovka and some other settlements. ,

In general, if the Germans did not manage to take Kursk and destroy the Soviet armies defending it, then they were at least able to inflict heavy losses on the enemy and weaken and push back his transition to the offensive. During the subsequent offensive, the Red Army only succeeded in pushing the German troops back, but not destroying them. When a year later, immediately after the Allied landing in Normandy, the reserve SS tank corps and the bulk of aviation had to be transferred there from the East, Army Group Center was no longer able to repel the onslaught of four Soviet fronts - 1st, 2nd and 5th. th Belorussian and 1st Baltic.

There are also many myths about the final operations on the Eastern Front. Our historians usually point to Operation Bagration—the defeat of Army Group Center in Belorussia in the summer of 1944—as an example of Soviet military art. Meanwhile, at the same time, they prefer to forget that 16 days before the start of Bagration, the Allies landed in Normandy. Both German and Western commanders, including Montgomery and Eisenhower, rightly point out that on the Western Front the density of German troops, armaments and equipment was two and a half times greater than on the Eastern Front, which complicated the task of the Allies. In addition, the Germans in the west had at their disposal the Atlantic Wall and the Siegfried Line, although not completed, but consisting of long-term fortifications, while in the east such fortifications were only in East Prussia. Against the landed

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in Normandy, the allies immediately fought selected German troops: the SS tank corps, the West tank group, which consisted of training tank units (later the 5th tank army), the parachute army, etc. In just two months of fighting in Normandy, from June 6 to August 11, 1944, American, British and Canadian troops lost about 170 thousand killed, wounded and missing. The Germans during this period, according to various estimates, lost from 200 to 300 thousand people. The losses of the Soviet troops in July and August of the 44th were second only to their losses in July and August of the 43rd, during the Battle of Kursk.

Most importantly, immediately after the landing in Normandy, the SS tank corps, located in Poland, was transferred to the Western Front. This greatly facilitated the task of the Soviet troops in Belarus. The emergency transfer of a significant part of the German front-line fighter aviation to Normandy contributed even more to the success of Operation Bagration. On June 6, 1944, D-Day, 288 German fighters were stationed in the West, and 550 in the East. Another 250 fighters were in the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Norway, and 1179 machines were part of the Reich air defense, which fought almost exclusively against Anglo-American aviation. And on June 22, the day the Soviet offensive in Belarus began, only 441 fighters remained on the Eastern Front, 704 on the Western Front, 338 in other theaters, and 538 in German air defense. As noted by German memoirists (their testimonies are collected in book by Hitler's former personal translator Paul Schmidt under the pseudonym Paul Carell "Eastern Front"), it was the complete absence of the Luftwaffe in the air that led to such a rapid defeat of Army Group Center, aggravated by the overwhelming preponderance

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the rise of Soviet troops in tanks. We are fond of reminding us that the allies in Normandy had almost a tenfold superiority in aviation and a threefold superiority in tanks. At the same time, however, they forget that the first weeks of the fighting, the Allied aircraft had to be based across the English Channel, and both then and in the following months, until the end of the war, the supply remained the main problem of the Allied armies in the west. Interruptions in the supply of fuel and the battle of supplies reduced the odds of the allies. But after all, the Soviet superiority was about the same

on the Eastern Front in 1944-1945. The whole question is who used his superiority more effectively? The Allies lost no more in killed, and according to some estimates, even less than the German units opposing them, who took an order of magnitude more prisoners. Three times fewer German soldiers died in the west than in the east. But on the other hand, even before the capitulation in May 1945, the allies took several times more prisoners than the Red Army, so that even then there was equality between the fronts in terms of irretrievable losses (prisoners plus those killed). In the last month of the war and the moment of general surrender, three-quarters of the Wehrmacht soldiers surrendered to the Western Allies.

It is very often stated that German intelligence never had serious agents in the Soviet headquarters and therefore knew nothing about the planned Soviet offensive operations. But the events associated with the operation "Bagration" and the Warsaw Uprising refute this opinion.

On August 1, 1944, the Warsaw Uprising began, directed against the German occupiers and organized by the underground Home Army (Army of the Motherland), subordinate to the Polish government in

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persecution in London. As early as July 20, this government issued an order for a detachment of the Home Army, in cooperation with the Red Army, to liberate Polish cities and proclaim the authority of the Polish government in exile there. When the Soviet troops captured two bridgeheads across the Vistula, Sandomierz and Mangushevsky, the AK command considered the moment suitable for starting an uprising. All the more so since the Moscow radio appealed to the Varsovians to rise up against the Germans. The Germans managed to hold the bridges across the Vistula, but most of Warsaw ended up in the hands of the rebels, supported by the townspeople. However, the Soviet offensive did not begin. The Home Army was a powerful force. Its detachments numbered 550,000 officer soldiers, of which 40,000 to 50,000 took part in the battles in Warsaw. However, the Warsaw insurgents had very few weapons - about 2.5 thousand rifles, about 600 submachine guns, 40 easel and 130 light machine guns, about 5 thousand pistols, from 15 to 50 anti-tank rifles and from 25 thousand to 50 thousand . pomegranate. The German garrison, on the other hand, had tanks and artillery and could count on aviation support.

The Kremlin, it seems, did not quite adequately assess



the situation in Poland and expected that during the uprising in Warsaw the leading role would be played by the Communist-influenced Army of Ludow (People's Army). The Warsaw Uprising was also taken into account when planning the operations of the Red Army. In John Erickson's *The Road to Berlin*, you

Marching in 1985, there is a report by an unknown agent submitted by the head of the Foreign Armies - East department, Reinhard Gehlen, to the General Staff on May 3, 1944, that in the Soviet Headquarters under the chairmanship of Stalin, as if

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in late March. two variants of the Soviet summer offensive were discussed. The first provided for the main attack in the Lvov-Kovel region with a simultaneous attack on Warsaw. According to the second option, which was adopted as a result, the main blow was delivered in the direction of the Baltic, and in the course of it it was planned to capture Warsaw, where an anti-German uprising of the Poles was expected. The auxiliary strike was planned to the south, in the direction of Lvov. It is easy to see that this is exactly what the Soviet troops did in the summer of 1944, when the main offensive, the famous Operation Bagration, led to the defeat of Army Group Center in Belarus and Lithuania and brought the Red Army to the Vistula near Warsaw and to the Baltic coast. on the outskirts of East Prussia. An auxiliary attack on Lvov made it possible to occupy Eastern Galicia and seize the Sandomierz bridgehead beyond the Vistula. Hitler did not begin to withdraw troops from the "Belarusian balcony" in advance. Otherwise, the Red Army would have been on the Bug, or even on the Visle, already in May 1944, the infieur tried in every possible way to drag out the war.

When it became clear that the Craiova Army was playing the leading role among the Warsaw insurgents, and that the few detachments of the People's Army were forced to obey it and could not play any independent role, Stalin somehow got tired of quickly taking Warsaw. As early as July 30, the Prime Minister of the Polish government in exile, Stanisław Mikołajczyk, arrived in Moscow. The USSR severed relations with its government back in April 1943 after the Germans uncovered the Soviet crime at Katyn. During two conversations with Stalin, on 3 and 2 August, Mikołajczyk was asked to unite with the pro-Soviet Polish National Liberation Committee,

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created in Lublin occupied by the Red Army on July 20, 1944. The communists dominated there. After Mikołajczyk rejected the offer to submit to the PKNO, the fate of the Warsaw insurgents was sealed. Stalin did not want to create an additional political problem for himself, having clashed in liberated Warsaw with the Polish authorities and the army, which had no sympathy for the communists and were recognized by the Western allies - England and the USA.

Soviet historians explain the failure of the uprising by the fact that the Germans, having concentrated five tank divisions near Warsaw, were able to stop the Soviet offensive from the Vistula bridgeheads and push the Red Army units to the Vistula. At the same time, they deliberately forget that already in mid-August all these five divisions went north in order to cut through the corridor and restore land communications between Army Groups North and Center. The operation began on August 16, and by the end of the month the Germans managed to push back the Soviet troops from the Baltic coast and restore land communications with Army Group North. But this operation lost its meaning in the event of a Soviet attack on Warsaw. The weakened German forces would not have been able to contain him, much less to hold the front from Latvia to the Oder in the north. However, the troops of the 1st Belorussian Front on the Vistula did not budge while the German 3rd Panzer Army fought its way to the Baltic Sea at Tukums. Instead of an offensive on the Vistula, on August 21, a Soviet offensive began in Romania. Stalin was in no hurry to end the war with Germany. First it was necessary to secure political control over Poland and the Balkans. As a result, Army Groups "North" and "Center" again joined for a short time. This operation would lose

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meaning if the Red Army launched an offensive near Warsaw. Then the German troops would most likely have to roll back to the Oder. In this case, there would be no way to keep the corridor with the Baltics. But the time of the end of the war would certainly have approached. But Stalin preferred to drag out the war for several months rather than risk Warsaw being under the control of the armed forces.

the Polish government recognized by him.

The Germans would hardly have risked such a bare front near Warsaw for the sake of a rather minor operation if they were not sure that the Soviet troops near Warsaw would not budge. Surely they received from their agents information about some kind of "stop order" given by Stalin to the Soviet fronts near Warsaw. This order has not yet been found in the Russian archives, most likely because Russian historians did not try too hard to find it. It is possible, of course, that this order was later destroyed or that it was given orally by Stalin, directly to the Chief of the General Staff, Vasilevsky, and the commander of the 1st Belorussian and 1st Ukrainian fronts. However, the course of events can only be explained by assuming that a "stop order" existed. It is characteristic that on August 26, 1944, the commander of the 1st Belorussian Front, Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky, confidently told the Anglo-American journalist Alexander Werth that the Warsaw Uprising "was a gross mistake. The insurgents started it at their own peril and risk, without consulting us." But how, I wonder, could they consult if the Polish government in exile was not recognized by Moscow? On a direct question

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respondent, what to do with the transmission of Moscow radio, directly calling on the Varsovians to revolt, the marshal scornfully remarked: "Well, these were ordinary conversations." True, the marshal admitted that he expected to take Warsaw if it were not for the unexpectedly strong German tank counterattack, but he did not say anything about the fact that at the time of the conversation with Werth, the German tank divisions had not been near Warsaw for a long time. They fought in the Baltic states, which was known to front-line intelligence. Nor did Rokossovsky mention that as early as August 8, together with Marshal Zhukov, he proposed a plan for an operation to liberate Warsaw, which could begin on August 25. However, Stalin never gave the order to carry it out. On August 12, a TASS statement was published in which the Soviet side completely disclaimed responsibility for the fate of the Warsaw insurgents. Probably by this time the Soviet troops had already been ordered to stop on the Vistula. And on August 16, Stalin sent a letter to Mikolajczyk, where he described the uprising in Warsaw as "a frivolous adventure that caused aimless casualties among the population." After that

Rokossovsky had only to repeat Stalin's assessment.

But the Soviet offensive at that moment, no doubt, would have led to the collapse of the German defense on the Vistula. The German General Kurt Tippelskirch in his History of the Second World War (M. Izdatinlit, 1956) admitted: "In the beginning, the successes of the Polish insurgents were stunning: most of the German military and civilian institutions located in this large city were cut off from the outside world; the halls are occupied by rebels who have mortars, 20-mm anti-aircraft guns and anti-tank

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mi means (mostly captured from the Germans. - B.S.); city highways are blocked. Only the bridges over the Vistula were held. If the Russians continued to attack the bridgehead, the position of the German troops in the city would become hopeless. But political considerations turned out to be more important for Stalin than purely military ones.

Only in mid-September was a largely demonstrative action taken by the 1st Polish Army, which was under Soviet control. On September 14, she captured the Warsaw suburb of Prague. At this time, Soviet planes finally began to drop cargo on the rebels. However, the landing, landed by the 1st Polish Army across the Vistula, ended by September 25 in complete failure, including because it was undertaken by too small forces and but rather demonstrative in nature - to show that there were attempts to help the rebels. Of the 2614 fighters who crossed to Warsaw, 1987 were killed and 289 were wounded. In addition, 510 soldiers and officers of the 1st Polish Army were killed and 1178 were wounded on the Prague coast.

The next is known. Deprived of support, the detachments of the Home Army in Warsaw capitulated on October 3, 1944, pronouncing themselves the status of prisoners of war. In battles with much better armed units of the Wehrmacht and the SS, tens of thousands of Varsovians were killed (according to some estimates, up to 40 thousand), as well as about 16 thousand soldiers of the Home Army. Another 25 thousand Varsha Vyan were wounded. The Germans lost 17 thousand soldiers and officers killed, another 9 thousand were wounded and 2 thousand were captured by the rebels. More than 200 German tanks and assault guns were destroyed or damaged. Sometimes they talk about 200 thousand dead among

rebels, but this figure seems exaggerated.

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The last issue of the Insurgents' Newsletter, published on October 4, the first of two days of surrender, stated: "The fight is over. More than two months of one of the most sublime and tragic pages of our history has come to an end... The account of our losses and gains, merits and mistakes, sacrifices and won values, we must pass on to history... A defeat, the extent of which we do not want to underestimate, - this is the defeat of one city, one stage of our struggle for freedom ... It is not a defeat of our people, our plans and historical ideals.

Under the surrender agreement, the Germans promised that the inhabitants of Warsaw would not be subject to the principle of "collective responsibility" for the uprising. They even, meeting the surrendered rebels, in recognition of their courage, took guns on guard. After the suppression of the uprising, on the orders of Hitler, the Germans almost completely razed Warsaw to the ground. 50,000 inhabitants were deported to concentration camps, and 150,000 were deported to forced labor in Germany. SS Ober Gruppenführer Erich von der Bach-Zelewski, who led the massacre of Warsaw, was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment for these and other crimes.

The Western allies, for obvious geographical and strategic reasons, could only provide very limited assistance to the Warsaw insurgents. American and British heavy transport aircraft from bases in Italy flew to Warsaw and dropped food, weapons and ammunition to the rebels. However, they reached the Polish capital only at the limit of their range and could remain in the sky over the Polish capital for a few minutes. The cargoes were dropped very badly

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whole, and more than half of them never reached the rebels, partly falling into the hands of the Germans. Moreover, there could be no talk of any Anglo-American landing in Warsaw. At the request of Roosevelt and Cher-

chill to allow Anglo-American planes to land after raids on Warsaw at Soviet airfields on Polish territory, already occupied by the Red Army, which would greatly increase their ability to help the uprising, Stalin responded with a decisive refusal. On August 16, the Generalissimo wrote to Churchill: "The Warsaw action is a reckless, terrible adventure, costing the population great sacrifices. This would not have happened if the Soviet command had been informed in advance and the Poles had maintained contact with them. The Soviet command must dissociate itself from the Warsaw action, since it cannot bear either direct or indirect responsibility for it.

Today, Polish politicians, if they reproach the Western allies, only because they gave Poland into the Soviet sphere of influence. This was finally fixed by agreements in Yalta February 1945, but in fact it was predetermined back in Tehran at the end of 1945, and neither Churchill nor Roosevelt had any doubts about this during the period of the Warsaw Uprising. The reproach is probably justified, but in the specific geopolitical conditions of 1944-1945, Western leaders hardly had any other choice. Even in the event of a sudden and rapid collapse of German resistance, the British and American armies still had no way of preventing the Soviet occupation of Poland.

The tragic paradox was that the fate of 15-20 thousand Warsaw insurgents who fell into German captivity was happier than the fate of those battles.

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tsov AK, who had to deal with the Red Army. Most of those who were captured by the Germans emigrated to the West after the war, including General Tadeusz Bur-Komarowski, commander of the Army Corps, and some returned to Poland. Detachments of the Home Army, for example, who, together with the Soviet troops, liberated Vilna (Vilnius) from the Germans in July 1944, were disarmed immediately after the liberation of the city. Many officers were shot, and the soldiers were sent to camps. Such was the fate of other units of the AK, who risked fulfilling the order from London to carry out the Storm plan - a plan for interaction with the Red Army and participating in battles against the Germans in the Lvov region and in Volhynia.

The Russian government is still against recognizing Soviet responsibility for ordering the Warsaw Uprising and for unjustified repressions against the Home Army and abandoning the Stalinist legacy in this matter. Too many Russian politicians, including at the very top

huh, nostalgic for the days when Poland was a Soviet satellite. Maybe it was worth pleading guilty at least during the days of the 60th anniversary of the uprising in Warsaw? Such a step would certainly contribute to the growth of trust between the peoples of our two countries.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, President Putin delivered an address to veterans. It says in particular: "This uprising, the heroic struggle of Polish patriots during the Second World War became an important contribution to our common Victory.

Today we pay tribute to the heroes of the Polish Resistance. The courage and selflessness of the millions of faithful sons and daughters of Poland who fought against Nazism will forever be remembered.

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Russians." It is very good that today the Russian side pays tribute to the courage of the Warsaw insurgents and does not repeat the blasphemous words about the "frivolous adventure" - the official position of the Soviet times. However, unfortunately, there was no place for an apology for Stalin's position, which doomed the rebels to death and captivity, in the Russian president's address. That is why Putin probably did not go to Warsaw, missing the chance for historical reconciliation. And German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder took full advantage of this chance. In the Polish capital he found the courage to apologize for the crimes of the Germans in Warsaw. Maybe we should also apologize for the crimes committed by the Soviet punitive organs against the soldiers of the Home Army? And at the same time against the Germans in the last six months of the war?

It is a myth that the German losses were no less than those of the Red Army. Here are just some examples that show that the losses of the Soviet troops and the Wehrmacht were of different order. A particularly large gap in irretrievable losses existed in 1941, primarily due to the large number of Soviet prisoners. For example, on December 21, 1941, the chief of staff of the 323rd Rifle Division of the Red Army reported that during the fighting from December 17 to 19, the division lost 496 people and 1200 people missing, which gives an average daily level of irretrievable losses of 565 people. . During the same period, the entire German Eastern Army, numbering more than 160 divisions, lost an average of 681 killed and missing per day.

Also, according to Halder, the German land army on the Eastern Front from June 22 to

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On December 31, 1941, she lost 7120 officers killed and 619 missing. Total losses, together with enlisted men and non-commissioned officers, amounted to 173,722 killed and 355,885 missing. The Red Army in 1941 lost 50,884 officers dead and 182,432 missing. Even if we subtract from the Soviet losses the losses of the Air Force and the Navy, as well as the losses of those troops that the Germans were represented not by officers, but by officials, or were not represented at all (the main part of the political composition), and add to the German losses those who died from wounds and diseases, the ratio of irretrievable losses of officers will differ by only 20, primarily due to the large number of prisoners.

And in the future, the ratio of losses was not in favor of the Soviet side. The Red Army had to pay for the victory with huge human losses, which exceeded the losses of the Wehrmacht in the East by at least 10 times. Suffice it to say that in 1941-1944, the irretrievable losses of the officers of the ground forces, calculated relatively accurately for both sides, amounted to. for the Wehrmacht in the East, 65.2 thousand people were killed and missing. The Red Army during the same period (without the Navy and Air Force and with the exception of the political, administrative and legal composition of the ground forces, represented in Germany not by officers, but by officials) lost about 784 thousand officers only who died and did not return from captivity. This gives a ratio of about 12:1. The ratio of irretrievable losses of the armies of both sides on the Eastern Front was close to this indicator. If we accept the non-returnable losses of the Germans on the Eastern Front (together with those who died in captivity), about 2.6 million people (calculation based on data from a centralized accounting

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losses), including in the ground forces - about 2.4 million people, then, according to this method of assessment, irretrievable Soviet losses, including those who died in captivity, should have been about 28.5 million.



In August 1945, at the invitation of Marshal Georgy Zhukov, the commander of the allied forces in Europe, General Dwight Eisenhower, arrived in Moscow. In a conversation with des Zhukovs, he asked how the Red Army overcame minefields. Georgy Konstantinovich

willingly explained: first, infantry was thrown into the minefield, which undermined anti-personnel mines with their bodies. Then the gaps that had formed were launched by sappers, who neutralized anti-tank mines and cleared the way for tanks. "I vividly imagined," Eisenhower recalled, "what would happen if any American or British commander adopted such tactics, and even more vividly I imagined what people in any of our divisions would say if we tried to make this practice part of their military doctrine. The Americans measure the cost of war in human lives, the Russians in the general cleansing of the nation." The two commanders thought in different languages, which did not prevent them from remaining fighting friends who crushed Nazi Germany together.

A lot of similar Soviet attacks on uncleared minefields are recorded in German soldiers' memoirs. Here, for example, is Corporal of the division "Grossdeutschland" Guy Sayer (by the way, he himself

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half French) testifies: "Once, whose Russians sent Asians against our positions. They were supposed to defuse the minefield. The Russians counted heavily on tanks, and since they did not spare people, they often sent their soldiers to perform such tasks.

This action of the Russians, of course, failed. The minefield exploded under the screaming crowd, and we shot those who survived. The corpses quickly stiffened in such a cold, so that the stench did not spread far.

The Russians did not even try to use artillery to help the Asians. It means that we correctly assessed the situation."

There is also much evidence of bloody frontal attacks on an unsuppressed fire system, which became the Red Army's trademark method of attack. The same Guy Sayer describes in his memoirs how near Kursk in July 1945 "Hals machine gun was blown away by a grenade. The veteran continued to shoot, sowing death in the ranks of the Russians, who advanced in a frightening defile. Despite the enemy's desperate attempts to break through, thousands of Russian soldiers perished under the fire of German mortars and machine guns. What was going on outside our field of vision, we had no idea. Right in front of us, the enemy was suffering terrible losses. Similar descriptions of pest-

ryat both German and Soviet uncensored "trench memoirs".

Hitler and other leaders of the Reich hoped that eventually the manpower of the Red Army would dry up and the Wehrmacht would gain a respite in the East. On March 25, 1945, East Prussian Gauleiter Erich Koch told Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels that "The Soviets suffered in East Prussia

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extremely heavy losses of a million killed. Goebbels considered this figure "greatly exaggerated", but agreed that "the conquest of East Prussia is costing Stalin dearly" and that "now the main thing should be our desire to force the enemy to bear the heaviest sacrifices."

The destructive tactics of the Soviet military leaders in relation to their own soldiers continued until the end of the war. F.V. Mellentin recalled how his 48th Panzer Corps liquidated the boiler near the Ukrainian city of Brusilov in November 1943: "As is customary for the Russians, the encirclement was taken out primarily by headquarters, officers and some special units, and the bulk of the soldiers were left to fend for themselves. Not a single headquarters was captured in the entire Brusilov area, and not a single senior officer was among the dead. Thus, the Russians kept personnel for new formations. They were sent to the rear, where they received fresh troops from the inexhaustible reserves of the Red Army.

A significant part of the dead Soviet soldiers were those who died in German captivity. According to my estimates, about 4 million out of 6 million Soviet prisoners died. They made up almost one-sixth of the total number of dead Red Army soldiers - 26.4 million. The very high mortality of Soviet prisoners of war in German captivity was explained both by the fact that the USSR did not comply with the Geneva Convention and therefore was deprived of the opportunity to provide any assistance to its prisoners of war with food and clothing parcels, and by the fact that the Germans treated Soviet prisoners of war as to second-class people and did not show significant efforts in the first half of the war to anyone so that they you

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lived. Only with the collapse of the blitzkrieg did they begin to take more care of the Soviet prisoners, considering them as the labor force necessary for the Reich and personnel for collaborationist formations.

At the Nuremberg trials, A. Jodl testified about the situation of Soviet prisoners of war in the Vyazma region in the late autumn and winter of 1941: "Several adjutants of the Fuhrer were sent to the places, who reported to the Fuhrer on this issue in my presence. During these reports, they dealt with the mass mortality of prisoners of war after the last major battle and encirclement near Vyazma. The causes of mass mortality, as the adjutants of the Fuhrer believed, were as follows. The encircled Russian armies put up fanatical resistance and for the last 8-10 days had no provisions. They fed on the bark and roots of trees, since during their retreat they entered the most impenetrable forest areas. They were captured by us in such an exhausted state that they were not even able to move. Given the tense supply situation that existed at that time due to the destruction of the railways, it was impossible to take them all out anywhere. There were no places for them to live nearby. Most of them could be saved only with the help of immediate and thorough treatment in hospital conditions. It soon began to rain, and then cold. This was the reason why such a significant part of these prisoners in the Vyazma region died in captivity. Such was the report of the Fuhrer's adjutants sent to the Vyazma region. The same messages were received from the quartermaster general of the ground forces.

Even at the very beginning of the Russian campaign, expecting that, according to the Barbarossa plan, millions of

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lions of prisoners, Hitler did not foresee, either in this plan or in any other documents known today, any measures for the medical provision of prisoners and their food supply, as well as for their evacuation from the front line to the deep rear. Thus, the captured Red Army soldiers were actually doomed to a quick death from hunger .. cold and epidemics.

On September 16, 1941, Hermann Göring, speaking to officials of the occupation administration in the East, stated: "It is clear that a gradation in the supply of food is necessary. Active troops go first, then other troops in the enemy

country and local militias. Correspondingly, food standards are established. Then the German civilian population is supplied, and only then the local population of the occupied regions. Only those who work for us should be provided with food in the occupied areas. Even if we wanted to provide food for all the other inhabitants, it would be impossible." Thus, millions of people were doomed to starvation.

The same was said on April 24, 1945, speaking in Kharkov before the officers of the 2nd SS Corps, and Reichs Fuhrer SS Himmler: <... We must wage war with the idea of how best to take human resources from the Russians - alive or dead? We do this when we kill or take them prisoner and put them to real work, when we try to take possession of an occupied area and when we leave uninhabited territory to the enemy. Either they must be driven to Germany and become its labor force, or they must die in battle.

— On the other hand, given that the soldiers of the Wehrmacht and on the Eastern Front were constantly on

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On starvation rations, despite permanent requisitions from the population, the German possibilities for supplying and evacuating millions of prisoners of war, even if there was a strong will for this on the part of the command (and it was not), seem very limited. And by no means always in the Wehrmacht carried out the cruel orders of Hitler in relation to the prisoners. So, on September 21, 1941, the chief of the German general staff, Colonel General Franz Halder, wrote in his diary: "The attitude of the troops towards the commissars (they are not killed)." In most units of the German army, Hitler's order to destroy the Soviet political commissars was ignored.

As for the German losses in the West, in Italy they were approximately equal to the losses of the Allies, if they were killed. On the Western Front, where the superiority of the Anglo-American troops in men, tanks and aircraft was more significant than in Italy, the losses of the Germans killed exceeded the allied ones, according to a number of estimates, by one and a half to two times. Nevertheless, based on the correlation of forces, the German soldiers, officers and generals fought here no worse, and, in the opinion of many veterans of the allied forces, even better than the British and Americans.

## Economy of the Third Reich

The main economic myth of the Third Reich, of course, is the opinion about the large militarization of the German economy on the eve of the Second World War. Since the military industry had to be revived almost from scratch in the mid-1930s, the degree of militarization of the economy by the beginning

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World War II in Germany was not too high. Even in May 1940, on the eve of the great offensive in the west, the share of defense products was less than 15% of the total industrial output. In 1941 it rose to 19%, in 1942 to 26%, in 1943 to 38%, and in 1944 it reached a maximum of 50%. Meanwhile, in the USSR, by the end of the 1930s, the output of the defense industry accounted for at least half of all industrial output. In fact, Germany was not economically ready for any lengthy war with a coalition of strong opponents. This was explained by the fact that Hitler was guided by the blitzkrieg and did not prepare for a long war. Here, perhaps, the realization also played a role that no amount of mobilization would help Germany withstand a coalition of all potential powerful opponents, and the only chance was to beat them one by one. And in order to do this suddenly, unexpectedly, peacetime economics was just right. Daladier and Chamberlain could not believe that, without a fully developed military industry and an economy ready to mobilize, Hitler would risk starting a world war. And in order not to disturb England and France ahead of time, no preparatory mobilization measures were taken in the German economy. In the future, short campaigns in Poland and France did not require a large expenditure of weapons and military equipment. Therefore, although the growth of military production took place, but without using all the POSSIBLE CAPACITIES for this.

The real mobilization of industry for military needs began only with the advent of AI

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Bert Speer in February 1942 to the post of Minister of Armaments and accelerated a year later, after the defeat at Stalingrad and the declaration of total war. Previously, Hitler did not want to reduce the production of civilian products too sharply in order to prevent a significant drop in the standard of living of the population of the Reich.

On the occasion of the declaration of total war, Goebbels delivered one of his best speeches. On February 18, 1943, he performed at the Berlin "Sportplatz" in front of an audience of 20,000. In this speech, he said, in particular: "I ask you: are you and the German people full of determination, if the Führer orders, to work ten, twelve, and if necessary, fourteen hours a day and give your last strength...

Are you ready from now on to give all your strength and give the Eastern Front the men and weapons it needs to inflict a mortal blow on Bolshevism?...

Do you, especially women, want the government to make sure that a woman can devote all her strength to the conduct of the war and, wherever possible, replace the men who are needed by the front, thereby freeing men for it? ..

Would you approve, if necessary, the most radical measures against a small circle of deserters and speculators who, in the midst of a war, play at peace and want to use the people's need for their own selfish ends? Do you agree that the one who is guilty before the war should lose his HEAD for this ...

Only in times of great crises and upheavals of national life do they show themselves in practice

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true men as well as true women. Here, no one has the right to speak of a weaker sex, for both sexes prove their equal fighting determination and spiritual strength. The nation is ready for anything. The Führer has ordered that we follow him. In this hour of national reflection and inner upsurge, we will believe in victory even more faithfully and unshakably. We see victory in tangible proximity, we just need to reach out and grab it. We must find within ourselves

the ability to put absolutely everything at her service. This is the call of the times. That is why our slogan is: "Get up, people, let the storm come"

The exalted public enthusiastically answered all ten questions of the Minister of Propaganda on whether the Germans wanted a total war: "Yes! Yes! Yes

The total war program provided for a significant increase in the employment of women in order to free up men for the front. In total, more than two-thirds of the male population of the Reich, aged 18 to 45, were drafted into the Wehrmacht. This severely limited labor resources, which was only partially compensated for by the forced labor of prisoners of war and foreign workers, who, as a rule, did not have high qualifications. As Hans Kerl, who during the war years was the head of the planning and accounting department for raw materials, admits, "the situation with the labor force throughout the war was unsatisfactory, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The provision of armor was made without taking into account the qualified personnel and specialists necessary for research and other important work in the rear. The mobilization of women for work in industry and transport was also not very well thought out."

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In the article "Breast Service in Germany during the War Years", written by the team of authors of the collection "Results of the Second World War", it is noted that back in September 1939, by a government decree, "the voluntary conscription of women and girls for labor work was turned into compulsory labor service. ". All boys and girls after school had to undergo compulsory labor service for 6 months. But in the first years of the war there were not enough camps to accommodate the entire female draft contingent. It was only after the declaration of total war that "the labor conscription among women acquired a large scope ... due to the increase in women's labor camps and the training of a sufficient number of commanding staff, so that in subsequent years there were up to 80 thousand girls in the women's labor conscription detachments at the same time. But even this could not satisfy the growing needs of the state in the labor force. Therefore, by order of the government, a special "military auxiliary service" was created, in the system of which "worker girls" were supposed to work in



six months after their service - also within 6 months - in the state labor conscription units. Girls who were in the military auxiliary service were recruited to work in the military industry, in the military administration, in transport, etc. They were responsible for the quality of work to the director of the enterprise where they were assigned, and for the rest they were subordinate to the manager composition of the labor service. Their upbringing in their free time was carried out by their former bosses from detachments and groups of labor service.

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Let me note that in the USSR the use of women's and even children's labor was not limited by any terms at all and, unlike Germany, married women were involved in labor on an equal basis with unmarried women. In Germany, the child labor of the Germans was not used. But the children were among the "Ostarbeiters".

By July 1944, the German military industry had reached its maximum development. If in 1941 the index of armaments production (without aircraft and armaments of the Navy) even decreased in comparison with 1939 and amounted to only 98%, and in July 1944 it already reached 522%. At the same time, the labor intensity increased by only 50%. Minister of Armaments Speer admitted: "These successes were achieved by no means at the expense of the talent of my employees, although they made a considerable contribution to them with their organizational skills. But Hitler's support in all my undertakings played a decisive role. I had the opportunity at a decisive moment to throw on the scales the authority and unlimited power of the Fuhrer. But along with the authoritarian methods of mobilizing the economy, Hitler allowed Speer to use, as he writes in his memoirs, "the methods of managing the economy characteristic of democratic states. They were based on complete confidence in the big industrialists, and they, as a rule, tried to justify it. Thus, initiative was encouraged and a sense of responsibility was awakened ... "

Even in wartime conditions, Hitler sought to combine private property with state authoritarianism in the economy, considering this method of organizing military production to be optimal. The Fuhrer could not mobilize industry for military needs ahead of time, even before the start of the war, for a number of objective reasons. Such a mobilization

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under conditions of an economy based on private property, it required a lot of time and could not hide from the eyes of foreign observers, since at that moment Germany was not a state isolated from the world. And Hitler's entire policy was precisely based on the fact that as long as possible and more effectively use the "course of appeasement" pursued by the Western powers. If the mobilization of industry began in Germany, even such incorrigible optimists as Chamberlain and Daladier would have guessed that Hitler was preparing for a world war, and by no means only for the capture of the Sudetenland and Danzig. Under conditions of private property, even in the totalitarian Hitlerite state, it was impossible to simply order industrialists and financiers to start producing cannons instead of butter overnight. Let me remind you that France did not have time to mobilize its industry, while it took England and the USA several years to use all the possibilities of their military production. Here in the Soviet Union, where the economy was autarkic, i.e., there were practically no large-scale exports and imports, as well as private property, the mobilization of industry was carried out even before the war, and by 1939 the economy was functioning largely according to military standards. time.

The large naval program, which provided for the construction of 10 battleships, 12 battlecruisers, 4 aircraft carriers, 249 submarines, including 27 ocean submarines, began to be implemented in 1938 and was to be basically completed in 1944, and fully completed in 1948 year. By the beginning of the war, the Germans had done almost nothing to strengthen the fleet, and surface ships were disastrously inferior to the British fleet, not to mention the Americans.

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Kansk. And the shipbuilding program itself (the Tset plan), it must be admitted, was quite archaic. In the conditions of the rapid development of aircraft carrier aviation, German battleships and heavy cruisers, if they were built, would be doomed to rapid destruction, and 4 aircraft carriers would be completely insufficient to cover them. Not by chance in the war

most of the German battleships and heavy cruisers were killed by Anglo-American bombers and torpedo bombers.

The situation was no better with the supply of raw materials, fuel, materials and industrial equipment not produced in the territory of the Reich. The "Four Year Plan Factories," designed to secure German autarchy and produce alternative raw materials and energy such as synthetic fuels or synthetic rubber, were not to reach full design capacity until 1943. Due to the blockade, the supply of raw materials and fuel was sharply reduced, and hasty purchases at the last moment in July and August 1959 were far from enough.

The production of weapons and military equipment in the first year of the war was not very high. For example, in May 1940, only 40 tanks were produced, while in 1944, despite the bombing, the monthly production of tanks and assault guns exceeded 2,000 units. During the first two weeks of the war, the German bombers squandered their entire supply of bombs. In the first months of the war, no more than 1,000 aircraft of all types were produced per month, while in the summer months of 1944, 4,000 fighters alone were produced monthly. As G. Kerl noted, "looking back, we can say without exaggeration that the war was economically lost

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in Germany back in 1940-1941. Neither the strength of the armed forces nor the productivity of the military industry were brought to the highest possible level, and the time lost then could no longer be made up. As an illustration, Kerl cites the fact that the Wehrmacht had only 2.5 thousand tanks against the USSR, which was equal to the monthly production of 1944.

I note that, as we have seen, the Wehrmacht had about a thousand more tanks and assault guns in June 1941. But, what is characteristic, this number of vehicles was quite enough to destroy almost all 25 thousand tanks that were then at the disposal of the Red Army. Real measures to increase tank production in the Reich began to be carried out only with the advent of Speer, so that it took two and a half years to increase tank production to a maximum level. In peacetime, such an increase, obviously, would require five years, which are at the disposal of

Hitler simply did not exist. Most importantly, a sharp increase in the production of weapons and equipment at a time when their consumption was generally less than production threatened to accumulate weapons and equipment of old models, which would have become morally obsolete by 1943. For surplus tanks and aircraft, it would be more difficult to train crews at the same level as before, this would lead to an increase in equipment losses and the conservation of part of the machines, so that the effect of the increase in the nominal power of the Wehrmacht would be largely blurred. All the more so since there was not enough raw material for a radical growth of industry, in particular aluminum for the aircraft industry.

Of course, there were also subjective reasons that did not allow until 1942 to sharply increase the German

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military production. It was organized by representatives of the branches of the armed forces, while some of the enterprises were under the jurisdiction of the military ministry, and some under the civilian ministry of economy, and there was no unified system of military-economic planning. In March 1940, Fritz Todt, famous for building the imperial highways, was appointed minister of armaments. He came to the conclusion that businessmen should be given more freedom in the production of weapons, but osu-. I did not have time to implement this reform due to death in a plane crash. Hitler's personal architect, Albert Speer, who replaced him in February 1942, managed to bring order to military and economic planning. Quite quickly, at the beginning of 1943, with the arrival of Doenitz, he managed to achieve the transfer under his control and the production of weapons for the fleet. Although until 1944 the aircraft industry was subordinated not to him, but to the Luftwaffe, Speer, thanks to good relations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Aviation, Field Marshal Milchoms, was able to exert a significant influence on the development of the aircraft industry. Speer not only shifted the responsibility for the production of weapons to the manufacturers themselves, at the same time guaranteeing them significant profits in the event of successful completion of orders. He also secured from Hitler the widest powers to control the production of armaments.

According to one of Speer's employees, G. Kerl, "the secret of Speer's success was that some kind of life-giving force emanated from him, with the help of which he carried literally everyone with him ... Possessing the ability to quickly and correctly assess the situation -

novelty. make appropriate decisions quickly and put them into practice, he uses it very judiciously

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exercised his powers without ever being guided by preconceived notions. Within a few months, he created many so-called committees and centers, where hundreds of specialist economists were engaged in planning and practical management of the war economy ... Each branch of the war industry had its own main committee ... The leaders were sometimes appointed the best and active industrialists. The committees had the right to freely select employees, who for the most part came here from industry ... Centers were created to manage the supply of military materials. It was precisely in the questions of supplies that most of the unforeseen difficulties turned out to be, without the elimination of which it was impossible to draw up clear production programs and make more rational use of production capacities.

Previously, the order of the tank was first sent to a tank building company, which itself chose enterprises for the production of components. This led to uneven loading of enterprises. Under Speer, the workload of enterprises came from centers that took care of using all the existing capacities.

Speer effectively controlled the entire German economy. He achieved a significant increase in the production of coal and steel by creating all-imperial associations for the production of these basic products, without which no production of weapons was possible. To do this, he had, as in the Soviet Union, to introduce elements of coercive central planning.

As Kerl notes, the heads of committees and centers often intervene in their activities.

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They got into the affairs of organizations and official authorities that were not accountable to them, which gave rise to many frictions. But the decisive factor was that thousands of business executives, with great practical experience and foreign bureaucrats, were involved in the work in the committees and centers.

ti. Acting quickly, decisively and purposefully, they literally stirred up the entire German economy and created the prerequisites for a colossal increase in the output of military products. From the heads of enterprises, technical personnel and workers, not only exceptional exertion of strength and endurance was required, but also great ingenuity, in order to carry out tasks to expand production under a hail of bombs and in conditions of constant movement of orders. And neither sabotage nor the "Italian strikes" of foreign workers have ever disrupted the production of military products.

It is characteristic that, as in the case of the partisan movement, sabotage by foreign workers and prisoners of war, who had no sympathy for the Reich and, of course, with rare exceptions, who did not want a German victory, did not lead to the disruption of production tasks and did not cause serious damage to the German economy. There are obviously two factors at work here. On the one hand, foreigners were mostly entrusted with unskilled work. On the other hand, the main stimulus for labor was food rations, which were higher than they could get under the conditions of occupation, and even more so in prisoner of war camps. This was a very powerful stimulus, on which life or death literally depended. And few people were ready to risk losing not only rations, but also life itself. Moreover, those suspected of sabotage, at best, were waiting for a concentration camp, and at worst, execution.

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Without in the least denying Speer's managerial talent and the role of this factor in increasing the production of armaments and equipment, I want to emphasize that a number of objective factors also played into the hands of the new Minister of Armaments. It is a curious paradox that the worse Germany's military position became as hopes for a blitzkrieg collapsed, the more attention Hitler paid to the development of military production. As long as hopes of a blitzkrieg persisted, emphasis was placed on supplying the army with battlefield weapons. In 1942, when Speer became head of the Armaments Ministry, Hitler still hoped that a strike in the south by co-ownership of the Caucasus and Stalingrad, if not force Stalin to capitulate, then at least significantly weaken the strength of Soviet resistance and allow for two or three years remove the main forces from the Eastern Front and concentrate them against England. When the campaign of 1942 ended with the Stalingrad catastrophe, Hitler realized that the chances of victory were both

in Russia, and in the war as a whole, no more. It was necessary to fight for a draw, emphasizing the maximum increase in defensive armaments. Plans for the construction of strategic bombers and aircraft carriers were abandoned, civilian production was reduced, and total mobilization was announced. In addition, many of the design developments of 1940-1941, just in time for the end of 1942 - the beginning of 1943, were ripe for launch into a series. They began to produce more and more expensive weapons and military equipment, which significantly increased the level of military production.

It was not until 1944 that a significant reduction in military production began to take place. Before it

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From that moment on, the transfer of civilian enterprises to military needs took place very gradually, because they feared the growth of discontent among the population. This is illustrated by the dynamics of retail trade turnover: in 1939 it was equal to 37.8 billion marks, and in 1943 - 53 billion marks. Even taking into account inflation (in 1939-1943, retail prices rose by an average of 10%), the fall does not look too dramatic. The fact that before the war there were no worked out plans for the mobilization of industry also played a role. Most importantly, the German authorities, even in the period of the most critical situation, were not ready to put the Germans - "superhumans", according to racial theory - on that starvation ration for the supply of consumer goods, on which Stalin fearlessly put the entire Soviet people, with the exception of the nomenklatura, from the very beginning of the war. At the same time, the assertion that the robbery of the occupied territories significantly replenished the German treasury under Hitler is a myth. The German public debt from the end of 1939 to the spring of 1945 increased from 47.3 billion marks to an astronomical figure of 587 billion marks. To liquidate this debt, even in the event of a victory, reparations would have to be collected from the vanquished for decades. In the East, almost all funds pumped out of the occupied territories went to the maintenance of the armies of the Eastern Front and the occupation administration. Almost nothing came to the Reich from there, except for a disenfranchised, but most often unskilled labor force. In Germany, back in 1943, the turnover of trade in household goods was 65% of the level of 1939, and the turnover of trade in clothing

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and textile products - 78%. As Kerl emphasizes, "the task of providing essential items to the victims of enemy air raids has acquired absolutely exceptional importance, given that by the middle of 1943 the total number of victims increased by 250-200 thousand people every month. These were people who literally lost everything, except for what happened to be dressed on themselves ... The result of air raids on large cities, and especially on residential areas, was also the destruction of a large number of as well as warehouses of industrial enterprises. All this absorbed a considerable amount of current production.

Thus, the strategic bombing carried out by the Anglo-American aviation, even in those cases when their victims were civilians or enterprises and warehouses of civilian products, albeit indirectly, but reduced the German military potential, preventing a number of civilian enterprises from being transferred to the production of military equipment. products. In addition, Germany had to maintain a fairly significant production of export products in order to obtain strategic raw materials and materials from neutral and allied countries. Back in 1943, German exports were almost 82% of their pre-war level in 1938 prices.

All these objective and subjective factors did not allow Germany to achieve that level of militarization of the economy, which was typical not only for the USSR, but also for the USA and England.

From the second half of 1945, massive bombardments began to damage military production, significantly slowing down its growth. And since September 1944, when Anglo-American aircraft

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got the opportunity to deliver targeted strikes against enterprises for the production of synthetic fuel and transport infrastructure, the fall of German military production began. As Kerl noted, "The outcome of the air war was decided when, at the end of April 1944, the enemy began to bomb power plants and factories for the production of



synthetic gasoline, nitrogen and synthetic rubber... Gasoline plants, on which more than 2,000 bombs were dropped in a single raid and which to an inexperienced observer seemed like a pile of warped pipes and beams, were again put into operation in 6-8 weeks, and a few days later they were destroyed again... Until the middle of the year, it was still somehow possible to provide the armed forces with fuel due to marginal savings and the use of all available reserves. But from the beginning of the second half of the year, when all the fuel supplies were exhausted, its shortage turned into a significant hindrance, disrupting or extremely slowing down the preparation and implementation of all operational measures of the German command.

And on March 17, 1945, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels wrote with regret in his diary: "By the end of February, military aviation had only 30,000 tons of gasoline. Part of the gasoline is kept as a last resort for emergencies. A significant amount of gasoline is expected to arrive only in autumn. Until that time, from now on, gasoline will no longer be consumed, except for flights to provide troops. In accordance with the availability of gasoline, all types of aircraft will be excluded from our weapons program, with the exception of five, mainly jets. The next day, March 18, 1945, Anglo-American aircraft made

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the most powerful raid on Berlin. 1,500 bombers, escorted by 750 fighters, bombed the capital of the Reich for two hours. The German air defense could only oppose them with 28 Me-262 jet fighters.

The "economic miracle" accomplished by Speer could not decisively influence the outcome of the war, also because losses in armaments and military equipment increased catastrophically. As Kerl notes, "arms production in 1944 was at a level that, in a normal situation, made it possible to meet any needs of all branches of the armed forces. But at that moment, in the east and west, the opponents inflicted absolutely unprecedented damage on the German army. Retreating, the German troops threw a huge amount of military equipment onto the battlefield ... The gross output of 1944 would be quite enough to fully arm and equip 225 infantry and 45 tank divisions.

In 1944, the Allied landings in Normandy led to situations in which Germany could no longer hold the front without heavy losses either in the east or in the west. The loss of weapons and equipment on the battlefield practically ate the entire increase in the production of weapons for the ground forces in 1944. The Luftwaffe, although inferior in the number of vehicles to its main opponents, most of all suffered from a shortage not of aircraft, but of fuel. It was the latter circumstance that practically paralyzed the activities of German aviation starting in the autumn of 1944. This was facilitated by the fact that allied aviation acquired bases in France. The situation was aggravated by the fact that by 1944 the human resources of Germany were depleted, so that the number of German troops was steadily falling.

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Saved the position of the part, consisting of Zionist collaborators and "voluntary assistants."

Everything we know about the development of the German economy in 1944 indicates that if the landing of the Anglo-American troops in the West were once again postponed, a difficult situation could arise for the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, when the number of military equipment and weapons at the disposal of the Wehrmacht.

Germany during the war did not try to build either battleships or aircraft carriers. Hitler considered the first ones to be obsolete and therefore not justifying the enormous forces and means necessary for their creation. Of the two aircraft carriers laid down before the war, in 1936, they tried to complete one, the Graf Zeppelin, but it turned out to be extremely complex and resource-intensive in construction. Most importantly, there were no aircraft capable of landing on it, and there were no pilots able to fly on these aircraft that did not yet exist. Having weighed all these factors, the command of the fleet mothballed the ship, rightly deciding that it would still not be possible to commission it before the end of the war. At the end of the war, it was blown up at the mouth of the Oder. The Zeppelin was raised by Soviet sailors, but, as German Admiral Friedrich Ruge believed, it sank during towing in the Baltic Sea - as if due to the fact that the entire hangar deck was littered with captured documents, which during the storm shifted by one board. The reality turned out to be even more phantasmagoric. The brave Soviet admirals and shipbuilders decided that it would be cheaper to sink an aircraft carrier than to bother with its completion, although the ship was in a high degree of readiness, and the damage, although serious, could well be repaired in about a year. August 16

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In 1947, the aircraft carrier was blown up by bombs and shells, and then shot by torpedoes and sank in the Baltic Sea near Swinemünde. Who knows, if at that time they decided to finish building the Zeppelin in the same place, in East Germany, the first aircraft carrier with a displacement of almost 33 thousand tons in the Soviet fleet would have appeared thirty years earlier.

"Wonder Weapon": myths and reality

The "wonder weapon" with which Germany supposedly could change the course of the war and defeat its enemies became one of the grandest myths with which Hitler supported the will of the German people and the Wehrmacht to resist until the very END. "Wonder weapons" usually include V-1 and V-2 rockets, Me-262 jet fighters, and the latest electric battery-powered submarines that were able to stay under water for several weeks and were almost invulnerable to aircraft and anti-submarine ships. All this equipment really entered service in 1944-1945 (submarines - literally in the last month of the war), but did not have any significant effect on the course of hostilities. If, as Speer said, all these types of weapons could be produced at least a year earlier! However, his assertions that the fatal delay was due to organizational irregularities are hardly substantiated.

The only type of "wonder weapon" that could really affect the outcome of the war - the project to create a nuclear bomb - fighting Germany, especially in the conditions of massive Anglo-American

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Rican bombings, was beyond the power and was finally abandoned in the summer of 1945. The stocks of uranium accumulated by that time - 1200 tons - A. Speer was forced to use for the manufacture of cores for armor-piercing shells instead of scarce tungsten, the import of which from Portugal was temporarily stopped. But, according to Speer, back in the autumn of 1942, when Werner Heisenberg and other leaders of the atomic project announced that Germany would be able to create an atomic bomb suitable for combat use no earlier than in 3-4 years, Hitler, at the initiative of Speer, ordered gradually shut down the nuclear program. During this period, the outcome of the war in any case will be

det is defined and non-nuclear weapons, but most likely, it will simply end.

Later, the main hope was placed on jet aviation. On March 22, 1945, Goebbels wrote in his diary: "Now the Führer places great hopes on jet fighters. He even calls them 'the machines of German destiny'. He believes that, thanks to jet aircraft, it will be possible - at least by defensive actions - to undermine enemy air superiority. But he adds that they will hopefully not be received too late. The hand of the clock is approaching twelve, if it has not already exceeded twelve ... The fortunate circumstance when using jet aircraft is that they do not need high-quality gasoline, that they can fly almost on slop. So we can deal with the fuel problem." However, the comparatively few and not entirely reliable Me-262s could no longer cope with the armadas of "flying spacecraft".

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fast." According to Hitler's adjutant from the Luftwaffe, Colonel Nikolaus von Belov, back in the autumn of 1945, "Hitler was also acquainted with the phenomenon of" kamikaze pilots. For various reasons, the same was demanded of our pilots, justifying this by the fact that such a sacrifice was needed for the victory of the fatherland. The Fuhrer did not adhere to this view. He approved of selfless actions dictated by enthusiasm in the name of the fatherland, but he considered such a price too high. Nevertheless, such volunteers were sought out in case they were ever needed in the future.

In the last weeks of the war, the Germans nevertheless decided to use the services of suicide pilots, who were supposed to ram the Anglo-American "flying fortresses", but due to the complete dominance of the Allied aviation in the air, the lack of fuel in the Luftwaffe, and, most most importantly, suicide volunteers, only one such attempt was made. Goebbels noted in his diary on March 15, 1945: "The Fuehrer has agreed to use approximately 3,500 suicide bombers with a 95 per cent guarantee of self-sacrifice against groups of enemy bombers, so that under any circumstances one fighter will shoot down one enemy bomber. This plan was proposed a few months ago, but Goering did not support it. And by the way, he did the right thing. The pilots of the German fighters in the west were, in fact, suicide bombers, since they had very little chance of breaking through to the target through the fire of the machine guns of the "flying fortresses" and through the cannon fire of the heavy fighters covering them.

Lei "R-47" "Thunderbolt". Under these conditions, they were even less likely to make a ram, if at a distance

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it was possible to get out of the position of an aimed shot only with great difficulty. The only attempt to use massive Luftwaffe ramming was made on April 7, the day the massive allied air raids on German cities ceased. Goebbels was forced to admit in an entry dated April 8 that with the use of fighters "for ramming" "successes are not as great as we would like." And on April 9, he clarified: "The first operations of our ramming fighters did not lead to the expected success. This is explained by the fact that formations of enemy bombers went in small groups and they had to be fought one by one. In addition, due to the strong barrage of enemy fighters, our fighters managed to ram only in a few cases. The Allies do not appear to have noticed the Fuhrer's kamikaze attacks at all and did not record them in any way in their reports of the air war against Germany. Goebbels hoped that those early attacks would be repeated with much greater success, but the Luftwaffe no longer had the aircraft, fuel, or pilots for that purpose. It was pointless to spend the Me-262 in such a barbarous way, since it was assumed that each of them was capable of destroying much more than one enemy vehicle. The few older types of aircraft no longer had either fuel or a real chance to break through the dense barrage.

Another type of "wonder weapon", or, as the German propaganda called it, "weapons of retaliation" (meaning retaliation for the bombing of German cities by allied aircraft), the V-1 and V-2 rocket projectiles turned out to be very cost inefficient. Each "V-2" was no more than

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than a bomb weighing 1 ton, and one-time use, but it cost, especially taking into account the cost of design, several times more than a bomber, which was used many times. The first ballistic missiles to which

and belonged to the V-2, had a dispersion radius even greater than aerial bombs, and could only be used when shelling large cities. Their only advantage was the ability to overcome enemy air defenses almost without hindrance, which was an almost impossible task for German bombers in 1944-1945.

By the way, from the point of view of costs, the most effective weapon of the Germans was the "faustpatron" (more precisely: panzerfaust) - the first rocket-propelled grenade launcher, which in the last two years of the war, and especially after its end, was destined for a great future. "Faustpatrons" were produced up to 1 million units per month, the grenade launcher was extremely cheap, and could completely destroy a heavy tank (though only in close combat). G. Kerl called "Faustpatron" a "weapon of the poor", meaning that it is produced primarily by those countries that, due to a lack of resources, human and natural, could not afford under the harsh conditions of blockade and tension of all forces to carry out expensive developments.

For this reason, in particular, the Germans never managed to achieve any impressive success in the implementation of the atomic project. Although on this occasion, the English researcher David Irving concludes: "An objective assessment of the entire series of scientific works carried out in Germany shows that the Germans in the field of atomic research have achieved much more than it has ever been publicly known.

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personally recognized by the British and Americans. Some questions, despite their very limited possibilities, they studied as deeply as the British and Americans ... In the field of separating uranium isotopes, Germany has achieved a lot ... The lag is due mainly to the difficulties created as a result of air raids by allied aviation ...

The main conclusion of the German scientists was that "The combination of 20 centimeters of heavy water and one centimeter of metallic uranium with a density of 18 (meaning the distance between the uranium plates equal to 18 centimeters) is the most favorable." American physicists remarked on this subject: "This conclusion is exactly the same as that which we obtained in August 1943 by calculation (CP-925)." So, they admitted, the German work was done by the second

same time as their own.

Further, the American experts touched on the references so often found in German documents to the need to have about 4 tons of heavy water in order to create a critical boiler. They noted that "this figure is absolutely correct." German uranium metal - "and this is important" - was almost as pure as in America. And at the beginning of 1944, i.e. A little later than the Americans, German theoreticians developed the same mathematical methods for calculating the reactor as in America - "group models for calculating the reflector." Why, then, did they not succeed in setting up a chain reaction with heavy water ("Product 9")? "The answer is simple: they didn't have enough R-9s." In short, the level of understanding of the basic principles in Germany was quite comparable to the American ...

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The research of German scientists and their developments were surprisingly similar to ours. It only remained to be surprised, the two American scientists emphasized, that such a small and isolated group of scientists achieved so much in such unfavorable conditions ... True, one should quite clearly distinguish between the theoretical achievements of German physicists and the unsatisfactory state of work in the field of technology nuclear reactors. The latter was explained both by a lack of funds and by the fact that theoretical physicists predominated in the leadership of the project. Irving concludes that "From the middle of 1942 until the end of the war, the Germans only squandered their advantage in time by wasting three years on what, with the will, could be found out in three months. On this occasion, Dr. Dibner wrote the following: "Looking back and evaluating the events of those times from the standpoint of today, it can be seen that the possibility of carrying out a self-sustaining chain reaction in furan boilers was proved already in 1942 and that all our subsequent experiments were simply evidence the same." Here it must be taken into account that physicists from all over the world, excluding the USSR and Japan, actually worked on the American project. Many emigrants from Germany worked in Los Alamos, and not only Jews. Let us recall, for example, the famous Klaus Fuchs, a purebred Aryan who made a considerable contribution to the American atomic project, and later transferred the atomic secrets to Beria and Stalin. In Germany, however, racial doctrine did not allow Jewish scientists to participate in the atomic project, and eminent scientists from the occupied

foreign countries preferred to flee to neutral or allied countries,  
not inspired by the conditions for

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creativity that has developed in the National Socialist state. In addition, they were afraid to involve foreigners in the nuclear project for security reasons. Perhaps the lack of intellectual forces mobilized for the implementation of the German atomic project led to a series of mistakes that slowed down its progress. However, even if these mistakes did not lead to marking time, the German project had no chance of success, especially in the face of massive Anglo-American bombing. Let us recall that England finally abandoned the development of the atomic bomb during the war years and transferred all the available developments to the United States, although British scientists did not make any gross mistakes. The reason was the huge cost of the project, which proved beyond the strength of the British wartime economy. We can safely say that in order to create an atomic bomb, Germany would have to throw literally all its resources on it, abandoning the development of all other new weapons systems, which, of course, was impossible. And even in this case, there would still be no guarantees that the objects of the uranium project would not have been bombed before by allied aviation. By the way, if, say, the Germans already in 1942, as the Americans did, would concentrate their main scientific, technical and military-economic efforts on the atomic project, it is possible that they would have lost the war for six months, or even for a year. earlier, since they would have waged less intensive submarine warfare and even more significantly lost to the allies of aviation and tanks. After all, in the final analysis, Germany's colossal lag in the race for the atomic bomb had no effect on the outcome of the war in Europe, where the Americans never had time to use it. The United States, on the other hand, turned out to have enough funds for the accelerated development of nuclear weapons.

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project, and to achieve a record level of production of aircraft, tanks and other military equipment.

By the way, the "trophy" German physicists made a considerable contribution to the Soviet atomic project. Already on December 19, 1945, the Soviet government



adopted a secret resolution on the involvement of German specialists to work on this project. By the end of 1948, there were about 500 German specialists in this problem in the USSR. Many of them were awarded Soviet prizes and awards, and the chief specialist on the uranium problem, Nikolaus Riehl, by the way, a native of St. Petersburg, even became a Hero of Socialist Labor.

But in other weapons systems, Germany most often surpassed its opponents in quality (but not in quantity). The Reich overtook all other countries in the development of rocket weapons and jet aircraft, as well as submarines. The first Me-262 jet fighter, which took part in the battles of the Second World War, the first V-1 cruise missile and the first V-2 guided ballistic missile, used to bombard non-friendly cities, appeared in Germany. Moreover, if the V-1 missiles could still be shot down or rammed by British fighters or shot down by anti-aircraft artillery, then there were no means of protection against the V-2 at that time. About 9 thousand V-1s were fired in London in 1944, of which about 6 thousand reached England, including about 3 thousand fell on London. Also, 3165 V-2 shells were fired at the English capital. Approximately 2,000 more ballistic missiles were fired at the Belgian cities of Antwerp, Brussel and Liège. German rocket designer Wernher von Braun, who was taken out by an American at the end of the war.

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tsami in the United States, became one of the leaders of the American space program and made a major contribution to the creation of the rocket that delivered the first people to the moon. In the USSR, the captured documentation and details of the V-2 significantly helped the development of the Soviet space program, and the captured Me-262 helped the formation of Soviet jet aviation. German designers were forced to participate in the creation of the Soviet atomic bomb, jet aircraft, missiles and submarines. Indeed, at the end of the war, German designers managed to create submarine cruisers capable of ocean crossings in a submerged position, without surfacing. There were no such boats in the world then.

The Soviet Su-9 jet aircraft, which appeared in 1946, was practically a copy of the Me-262. Its design also influenced the first Soviet jet MiGs. After the war, "Me-262" serially

It was produced in Czechoslovakia and was in service with the Czechoslovak Air Force until the mid-1950s. And the Soviet MiG-15 fighter, the American F-86 Saber and the French Myster were created with the active participation of German specialists and using German technical documentation.

Significant progress has also been made by German designers of less exotic types of weapons, in particular small arms. The German heavy machine gun "MG-42" was recognized as the best in its class weapon of the Second World War. Soviet, American, and British soldiers willingly used it as a captured weapon. With a weight of 10 kilograms, it provided a rate of fire of 20 rounds per minute and was

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very unpretentious in service. By the end of the war, an even more advanced MG-45 machine gun was created, which, with a weight of 6.5 kilograms, soon gave up to 40 shots per minute. But they did not have time to launch it in the series. But the most famous machine gun (in German terminology - an assault rifle) of the war and post-war period - "Schmeisser" - from the middle of 1944 and until the end of the war managed to mass-produce more than 400 thousand pieces. Its prototype, the MP-45 assault rifle, was produced in an experimental series in the amount of more than 12 thousand pieces. The machine gun was good, the Wehrmacht soldiers praised it for its high combat qualities, reliability, rate of fire and accuracy of fire with a relatively small weight. The fighting qualities of the "Schmeisser" were fully appreciated in the Soviet Union after the Second World War. Take, for example, the famous AK-47 submachine gun, in simple speech "Kalashnikov", which today is used by the armies of 55 countries of the world and produced in 12 states. It is depicted on the state emblems of the African states of Burkina Faso and Mozambique. If we compare the Kalashnikov with the German assault rifle of the 1944 model, developed at the design bureau of Hugo Schmeisser, then ten differences between them, as is usually the case in tasks for attention, cannot be detected with all our will. Actually, there are only three differences between them: in the shape of the butt (in the German sample it is better than in the first Kalashnikov sample), in the design of the bolt mechanism (here the advantage is on the side of the Kalashnikov), and even in caliber. At the German machine gun it is 7.92 mm, and the advice of the SKOGO is 7.62. By the way, in Soviet novels

and films "Schmeisser" is usually called completely

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another German assault rifle, adopted as early as 1940, is the 9E-millimeter MP-40, developed by Erfurter Maschinenfabrik and designer H. Volmer. The German infantry in Soviet films is always armed only with this machine gun, but never with real "Schmeisser MI", T. ©. "Kalashnikov" This substitution was made on purpose so that the general public would not guess what the Schmeisser really was. The only exception is the feature film I Was Nineteen, made jointly by filmmakers from the USSR and the GDR, but almost never released in the Soviet box office.

Perhaps, when choosing a suitable designer, they preferred the peasant nugget Mikhail Timofeevich Kalashnikov, who did not have a higher education, because it was not very convenient for more eminent designers to put their name on someone else's weapons.

At the end of the war, the Germans prepared for the release of the first ever guided anti-tank missile "Rotkepchen", but did not have time to put it into series. Air-to-air missiles were also prepared for launch.

Also, the new German tanks "Tiger", "Panther" and "King Tiger", which appeared in 1942-1944, were superior to any tanks available to Germany's enemies. For example, the "Royal Tiger" with its 88-mm cannon pierced the armor of the most powerful Soviet tank "IS-2" from a distance from which it could not penetrate the 150-mm frontal armor of the "King Tiger" with its 122-mm gun. And the Panther was superior in all respects to the American and British medium tanks. Only in February 1944 did the Americans and the British have modi

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Fiction tank "M-4" "Sherman", capable of fighting "panthers" and "tigers", but only at short distances. They were inferior to the "panthers" in terms of armor, and their 76-mm gun could not be compared with the German 88-mm. Our zhetank <T-34", even after being equipped in 1944 with an 85-mm cannon, could not withstand either the "tigers" or the "panthers".

As Lieutenant-General-Engineer Erich Schneider, one of the leaders of the Wehrmacht's weapons service, notes, "tanks of the T-[U] type, and then the Panther and Tiger, were so successful that they could compete with all foreign tanks. . The development of German tanks went not only along the line of increasing ... firepower, maneuverability and armor protection, but also along the line of improving tank control on the battlefield by expanding the viewing sectors, ensuring uninterrupted radio communication between tanks and improving inter-tank communication devices. This partly explains the fact that German tanks and assault guns often emerged victorious from battles with immeasurably superior enemy forces.

Indeed, German tankers defeated their opponents both in the east and in the west due to better management, a high level of combat training, the ability to use communications, and also, in 1943-1945, due to the higher quality of equipment. Moreover, both the main qualities played a role here, such as speed, armor thickness, caliber and muzzle velocity of the projectile, as well as seemingly secondary details, such as the best quality of optical sights, the convenience of the crew inside the tank, and a device for removing powder gases. from the tank. For example, when an 85-mm cannon was installed on the T-354 at the end of 1943, it seemed to become

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unquestionably superior to the modernized German tank "T-GU" with a long-barreled 75-mm gun. However, the German tankers still had a chance to fight him on an equal footing due to better optics, the presence of radio stations on all vehicles (the Soviet tankers had radio stations only on command vehicles, and on the rest - only receivers), more comfortable combat conditions. The T-34 did not have a device for removing powder gases, and by the end of the battle, the tank turret turned into a real sponge for the soul, it had to be aired. In addition, in the first modifications of the T-34, the tank crew consisted of 4 people, and the commander was also the gunner. As a result, in battle, he was forced to give all the time to shooting, and no one commanded the crew. In the latest modifications, the crew increased by one person, a gunner appeared, but it became more difficult to turn around in the tank, which also made it difficult to conduct a battle.

But all the advantages of German tankers over

their opponents did not allow them to win, since the enemy many times surpassed Germany in the number of tanks that entered the troops. The T-34 is often called the best tank of World War II. But this, I emphasize, does not mean at all that he could defeat any enemy tank in battle. In the fight not only against the "tigers" and "royal tigers", but even against the "panthers" he had nothing to catch. The T-54 generally held its own against other German medium tanks and was the cheapest and easiest tank to manufacture, with such powerful weapons and armor, as well as high speed and maneuverability. "Tigers" and "Panthers" were an order of magnitude more expensive and complex machines, and therefore they were produced a little, if

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compare with the production of "thirty-fours". More than 4,500 Panthers were produced (by the way, the captured Panthers continued to serve successfully in the French army for several more years). Tanks "T-34" in the USSR, according to official data, by the end of 1946, more than 61 thousand units were produced, including more than 55 thousand in 1943-1945. Even taking into account the possible double counting in the Soviet data, the difference is too great. By the way, many of the design principles of the Panther were used after the war when creating the Soviet T-54 tank, which replaced the T-34 as the main tank of the Soviet army.

The German 88-mm anti-aircraft gun was practically a universal weapon, used with equal success against both tanks and aircraft, and is rightfully considered the best weapon of the Second World War. Since it was a joint Soviet-German pre-war development, it was also in service with the Red Army, so the Germans jokingly called it "Russenspritze" ("Russian syringe"). After the war, captured German anti-aircraft guns played a decisive role in the victory of the Viet Cong over the French landing in Dien Bien Phu in 1954. Heavy anti-aircraft fire prevented the besieged French from being supplied by air, which eventually forced them to capitulate. These cannons were also successfully used by the North Koreans in the war of 1950-1953.

Even German boats of old designs achieved outstanding success during the war. In total, in 1939-1945, they sank 2759 ships with a total tonnage of 14 119413 gross register tons with torpedoes, artillery and mines, including 5 aircraft carriers, 5 es-

court aircraft carrier, 2 battleships and 5 light cruisers,

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as well as 9 enemy submarines. In total, 148 warships were sunk and 45 warships were damaged. A total of 753 German submarines perished, including 49 from accidents. Until July 1943, they sank more tonnage of ships than were built at American and British shipyards. However, the improvement of radars, the strengthening of anti-submarine aviation turned the tide of the Battle of the Atlantic.

German submarines of a new generation were supposed to turn the tide of the struggle and bring England to her knees. Submarines of the XXGi XXIII series could reach speeds of up to 18 knots, which exceeded the speed of the Allied antisubmarine ships, and could remain submerged indefinitely. But only one boat of the XXJ project and 8 boats of the XXIII project managed to take part in the hostilities in 1945. About the combat qualities of the latter, which were small electric boats capable of making a trip of up to 55 days and intended for operations in coastal waters, a review of one of her captains has been preserved: "This is an ideal boat for short actions near the coast. It is fast, has good maneuverability, and is easy to operate. The small size of the boat makes it difficult to detect and destroy it by the enemy. He can only assume the presence of a boat, but it is difficult to establish its exact location.

As Grand Admiral Doenitz writes, "the first boat of the XXI series - "O-2511" went on the first combat campaign from Bergen on April 30, 1945. According to the commander of the boat, she showed herself from an excellent side both in terms of attack and in terms of defense and represented something completely new for submariners.

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If the war had lasted another six months, allied shipping would have been in jeopardy, since there were still no means of combating these electric boats. Twenty submarines XXJ of the project, captured by the Red Army at the Danzig shipyard, were enrolled in the Soviet Navy. However, it was not possible to complete and put them into operation. On the other hand, the new Soviet boats of the 6135th project were almost an exact copy of the German submarine of the XXth project.

Hitler is a commander

So was Hitler a real commander? The only minister of war in the Hitler government, Blomberg, despite his resignation in 1938 because of the scandalous past of his young wife, maintained respect and good relations with the Führer until the end of his life and repeatedly repeated that he had "outstanding military leadership abilities." ". The chief of staff of the operational leadership of the Wehrmacht and one of Hitler's closest associates, Colonel General Alfred Jodl, after the war, during interrogation, also stated that Hitler had great strategic abilities. Jodl stated during the Nuremberg Trials: "Hitler was a leader and a personality of incredible proportions. His knowledge and intelligence, his oratorical skills and will ultimately prevailed in any dispute. Jodl also singled out the role of Hitler in the production of modern types of weapons: "Hitler, with his amazing tactical and technical outlook, was the creator of modern weapons for the army. His merit is that the 57- and 50-mm anti-tank guns were replaced by 75-millimeter ones, that tanks stopped equipping short

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barreled guns and put on them long-barreled 75 and 88 mm. At the initiative of Hitler, modern tanks "Panther", "Tiger" and "King Tiger" appeared.

It is widely believed that Hitler had high hopes for his allies. In fact, Hitler was not at all deluded that they were capable of playing only a purely auxiliary role and operating only on quiet sectors of the front. When Mussolini visited the Eastern Front at the end of August 1941, Hitler, according to von Belov, already "knew that the Italians on the Eastern Front would not be able to do anything, and he did not count on their fighting strength. But the Führer nevertheless tried to somehow set the German officers on a positive attitude towards their Italian allies. Hitler spoke openly about secret long conversations with the Duce, emphasizing that for the time being it was necessary to "encourage" the Italians, because the fighting in the Mediterranean was not yet over. And when the Hungarian regent, Admiral Miklós Horthy, arrived on the Eastern Front in early September, after meeting with him, Hitler, having awarded his ally with a knight's cross, honestly admitted to von Belov that "on his part it was a purely political gesture in relation to the guest. To wage war on Hitler

Hungarians expected absolutely nothing. But for order in the Balkans, he needed a benevolent neighbor. Especially important for him were communications with the oil region of Ploiesti, without which Germany could not do. So the Fuhrer was satisfied with the result of this visit.

A real military genius, and after all the defeats of 1943-1945, was considered by the Fuhrer to be his successor, Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz and Field Marshals General Günther von Kluge and Wilhelm

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Keitel. Kluge's testimony is worth a lot, since the field marshal himself participated in the July 20 plot and shot himself so as not to be subjected to a shameful execution. Keitel declared in 1946, in anticipation of the imminent death penalty, that Hitler was not only a genius in military affairs, but "was so knowledgeable in the organization, armament, management and supply of all the armies and navies of the world that it was impossible to convict him at least one mistake. Keitel admitted that in his relations with the Führer, even "on the relatively simple day-to-day questions of organizing and supplying the Wehrmacht," as well as on many other military problems, "I was a student, not a teacher." The military genius of Hitler was also recognized by Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, but only in relation to the first phase of the Second World War, until 1942. And General Walter Scherf, who kept the War Diary of the OKW during the war years, believed that Hitler was "the greatest military leader and statesman of all times", a real commander, strategist and "a man of invincible faith."

Hitler's adjutant von Below recalled how on May 4, 1940, "after a meeting of the Reichstag, Hitler went to Danzig, where the battleships Bismarck and Prinz Eugen were already ready to go to sea." He wanted to talk on board the Bismarck with the naval commander, Admiral Lutyens, before the ship sailed for the Atlantic, to get acquainted with the dreadnought and see what the crew was on it. Upon my return, I heard from him praise both the ships and their personnel, in which he felt complete confidence. The only danger that threatened them under certain circumstances was air raids from an aircraft carrier, and this gave Hitler great anxiety. Iodine

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But he said that large warships in the war are generally superfluous. They are always subject to a great threat of being attacked by aircraft or their torpedoes, and they themselves cannot prevent this threat. The Fuhrer, on the one hand, was proud of the fighting force that Germany sent to the ocean, and on the other hand, watched with apprehension the swimming of such giants.

Hitler, as we see, quite astutely pointed out that the time of battleships had already passed. And it was not in vain that he was worried about the Bismarck, which was setting off on its last voyage, where it was destined to die in an unequal battle with the superior forces of the British fleet and aviation, and it was aviation that played a decisive role in its fate.

When evaluating Hitler's military abilities and strategy, one must proceed from one indisputable fact. In fact, there were no military means for Germany to win the war. This is recognized by both supporters and opponents of Hitler. For example, the former commander of a tank corps on the Italian front, General Frido von Senger-Etterlin, who did not feel any sympathy for the Kfuhrer, asserted in the early 50s: is the antithesis of the kind of democratic structure that is needed to coordinate all national resources. But do not be mistaken about this. And without the disastrous Hitlerite leadership of the state and military operations, it becomes clear that even with a different and free government, Germany still would not have won the world war, given its initial position. The total resources of her opponents, who dominated the sea, were so superior to her

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own that in the long term German military campaigns on land could not produce any result, no matter how skillfully they were managed ... The art of a strategist is given from birth, and then very rarely. It requires a good understanding of the human race and a knowledge of history. It is not necessary to ask whether Hitler and his advisers possessed such qualities. His personal advisers in the OKW were not respected in army circles. Dear chiefs of staff of the ground forces, who went through the excellent school of the old General Staff, have gone into oblivion ... This does not mean that a different choice of army leaders would have made it possible to win the war. Many battles,

but it would have ended differently. But our military defeat was hidden in the political defeat that preceded it, which led to the creation of a coalition of all the great powers of the world against Hitler Germany. Even if the impossible had happened and Germany had won, it would still be inconceivable that the defeated countries would be subject to such a system for a long time. The end result would be the same." I note that politically there were no chances to prevent the creation of a coalition hostile to Hitler. Western countries were equally unsympathetic to both communism and National Socialism. However, objectively, taking into account the level of functional education of the population and the level of combat effectiveness of the army, the military-economic potential of Germany exceeded the military-economic potential of the USSR. Therefore, England and the USA preferred to support whichever dictatorship presented the least threat to them. Hitler tried to solve a military-political problem that in principle had no solution, but this does not mean that he did not possess the military leadership.

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mi abilities, because this task was set by a purely ideological racial paradigm.

Hitler's strategic abilities were manifested in the fact that he ardently supported and achieved the implementation, despite the resistance of the generals, two extraordinary military operations, seemingly out of the canon of strategy. These are the landing in Norway in conditions when the kriegsmarine did not have dominance at sea, and the offensive in France in May 1940 with the main blow in the Ardennes, which were considered impassable for tanks.

At the same time, Hitler could hardly bear the sight of the suffering caused by the war. He could easily kill people on paper, by orders, but he had long forgotten how he killed enemies with his own hands on the front of the First World War. He could never say, "The enemy's corpse smells good." According to von Below, "Hitler was just as little interested in the photographs of the executions of the participants in the conspiracy on July 20, as in the photographs of the destroyed cities, which he looked against his will, only taking them into account. He was simply not in a position to see the city on fire or visit the residential quarters turned into piles of rubble and ruins immediately after the bombing. The Führer literally turned a blind eye to the consequences of his orders, and it was even impossible to induce him to visit (with a few exceptions).

niyami) hospitals and hospitals”.

At the same time, he was quite receptive to the opinions of the military, if they were sufficiently reasoned. So, Hitler's adjutant from the Luftwaffe von Below testifies: “I never observed Hitler's spiritual inflexibility and arrogance. He could always be spurred on by counterarguments outside

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sti in your opinion adjustments. But these arguments themselves should have been convincing. It happened that he did not immediately agree, but, after thinking, then he recognized someone else's point of view. His memory was above average, as was his knowledge in many areas: music, history, and partly the natural sciences. Of course, he was self-taught, but he educated himself for many decades, placing it on an incredibly broad basis. If the few sayings of the Führer did not fully meet the scientific or historical criterion, they nevertheless showed the extent to which he tried to deal with many such topics that remain alien to the average person throughout his life. This also explains the fact that Hitler rarely met with objections in his conversations, although specialists from various fields of science (although they met occasionally or were completely absent in his circle) certainly could correct him in some ways. But the listeners prevailed over the interlocutors.

Summing up his impressions from many years of communication with the Fuhrer, the same von Below made a fair conclusion that “Hitler, in fact, was a man devoid of contradictions. Contrary to numerous later assertions, I could not fail to notice that he himself constantly allowed him to be objected to and often changed his mind. But his assessments of, for example, people, historical figures and history as a whole have always remained unchanged. He talked a lot about his idea of the state that would one day rule Europe. His goal was to overcome the Jews and Bolshevism, as well as to eliminate any of their influence on the historical process. He firmly believed that it was Mrs.

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this one inspired by Providence itself. It's amazing how strong his "sixth sense" was about things to come, but at the same time, however, a horrifying loss of a sense of reality.

This absence of contradiction and reflection was the strength of Hitler's strategy, he stubbornly pursued his goal, strove to achieve his goals with a minimum expenditure of time and money. The thought immediately arises that this was also Hitler's weakness, his inability to abruptly change strategy at the moment when it becomes clear that the original goals are unattainable. However, considering that strategies that would have brought the Führer a win did not exist in principle, this lack of flexibility cannot be attributed to Hitler's shortcomings. He could only hold out as long as possible in the hope that the allies would either exhaust their forces or quarrel with each other, and he, like his idol Frederick the Great in the Seven Years' War, would get a chance to save.

Hitler realized early enough that his cause was doomed. General Jodl wrote after the war in Nuremberg prison that when, following Stalingrad, at the end of 1942, "Rommel, defeated at the gates of Egypt, had to withdraw to Tripoli when the Allies landed in French North Africa, Hitler clearly realized that the god of war has turned his back on Germany and gone over to the other camp." Hitler's adjutant von Below stated: "In January 1943, I got the impression that it became clear to Hitler that the fight against the Russians and the Americans, that is, a war on two fronts, was beyond his strength."

August 25, 1944, talking with the most successful ace pilot of the Second World War, Erich

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Hartmann, to whom he had just presented the knight's cross with oak leaves, swords and diamonds, Hitler honestly admitted: "From a military point of view, the war is lost, Hartmann. You must know this. However, there are also major political differences between the allies, the British and Americans, on the one hand, and the Russians, on the other. We must hold on and wait. Soon the Russians will be fighting the British and Americans just as they are fighting us now. This is the only alternative for us. Otherwise, the Bolshevik hordes will overwhelm us, and you yourself know what this will mean for our country. And when Hartman began to talk about the need for new modifications

fighters, Hitler replied that new types of weapons were being offered to him every day, but all this was too late, because there was no time for their development and production.

According to von Below, "Hitler saw the impending menacing course of development on the Eastern Front earlier and more clearly than his advisers. But he stubbornly demanded that the commanders of the armies and army groups, after the withdrawal of the front line, not to retreat further, and if it was necessary, to do so only in exceptional cases and at the very last moment. He also notes that in July 1944, shortly before the assassination attempt, he "for the first time had the impression that the outcome of the war was clear to Hitler. I felt this in some of his phrases and remarks, in which, however, there was still constant talk about the continuation of the war, about new weapons and their impact, and also about the fact that we will have successes. The Fuhrer did not give up, and above all, the conviction grew stronger in him: I will never capitulate! So the Fuhrer is clearly

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He accepted all the unfavorable military prospects for Germany, but was not going to give up.

On November 20, 1943, Hitler spoke in Breslau to the graduates of military schools. He declared that if the war was lost, the German people would cease to exist. Therefore, every German soldier must know that "this cruel war, which our enemies wanted and forced upon us, cannot end in anything other than the victory of Germany." In order to achieve this victory, everyone "must be imbued with a single and unshakable faith in our eternal Germany."

This and numerous other tirades of the Fuhrer about the inevitable future victory of Germany, uttered even in the most hopeless situation of 1944-1945, did not come from Hitler's erroneous assessment of the strategic situation. He only wanted to cheer up his generals, encourage them to fight to the last soldier.

Von Below, it seemed to him, found another explanation why Hitler never expressed doubts about the final victory of Germany: "Before us, the Fuhrer never showed signs of his weakness, did not make it clear that he considered the situation unpromising. He knew that there were officers in his Headquarters who no longer had any hopes for a positive outcome of the war. Therefore, Hitler considered it his duty to spread the feeling of certainty of victory. From now on, all his behavior, mood and actions were aimed at ensuring that none of

visitors or trusted collaborators, it would never occur to him to conclude from this how he himself regards martial law. Whatever happens in connection with events in individual theaters

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We, the Führer was always convinced that one day military happiness would smile at him again. I was always amazed by Hitler's ability to interpret defeats in our favor. He even managed to convey his thoughts convincingly and inspire hope in people who had to work with him in his narrow circle.

Von Below characterized the mood in the Wehrmacht after Stalingrad as follows: "I could no longer share Hitler's confidence in victory, expressed in his New Year's address to the people. But I also could not believe that Germany would lose the war. I imagined a reasonable peaceful solution in Europe, which seemed still achievable with some good will. It can't all be in vain! From the mood at the Führer's Headquarters, I clearly saw: this point of view was widespread there, as well as throughout the Wehrmacht. Field Marshal Manstein spoke and wrote about the possibility of bringing the war to a "draw" more than once, but in reality a draw was unattainable. The Red Army already suffered extremely high losses in manpower and equipment, but this did not lead to the depletion of Soviet manpower. There was no way to prevent the landing of the Allies in Normandy and the bombardment of Germany because of the colossal

air superiority of the Western Allies.

It is also a legend that Hitler was not properly informed about the situation or misjudged its seriousness and unfavorable development for the Reich. As von Below notes, after the Anglo-American bombardment of Germany intensified in the autumn of 1943, "after each raid, the Führer received reports from the appropriate Gauleiters and, consequently, was accurately informed both about the completely insufficient and about

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successful defense. Sometimes, however, especially during daytime raids, it was equal to zero. The fighters could not take off due to bad weather or were

set up somewhere else. This was precisely what excited the Fuhrer the most. It also happened that enemy bombers approached the object, accompanied by their fighters, and our fighters (also due to the insufficient experience of the pilots) did not enter the battle.

On November 5, 1943, Hitler issued Jodl's directive No. 51 on the conduct of the war in the west. It said: "The danger in the east remains, but an even greater one looms in the west: an Anglo-Saxon invasion! In the east, the size of the space makes it possible, in extreme cases, to leave even a large territory without endangering the vital nerves of Germany. Another thing in the west! If the enemy succeeds in invading our defenses here on a broad front, then the consequences of this will be felt in a short time, and they will not be foreseeable ... Therefore, I can no longer take responsibility for the fact that the West is weakening in favor of another theater of operations. Therefore, I decided to strengthen the power of the defense, especially where we will start shelling England. For there the enemy must strike and will strike, there will happen, if this is not all disinformation, a decisive battle with the landing force. As von Below notes, the Fuhrer "only made a mistake in the date, calculating that the landing from England would take place already at the beginning of 1944." But he saw in the landing of the allies in France the main and mortal danger. From France it was much closer to the Ruhr than from the Dnieper to Berlin, and the superiority of the Anglo-American aviation over the Luftwaffe was much more overwhelming than the advice

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sky air force. Hitler's adjutant from the Luftwaffe von Below, starting in 1944, repeatedly told the Fuhrer that "our aviation still has some chance of success only on the Eastern Front. In the west, in view of the clear quantitative superiority of enemy aviation, it has no chance. It is widely believed that Hitler arbitrarily and undeservedly removed his generals and field marshals. The disgraced military leaders themselves tried to create such an opinion in their memoirs. In the meantime, there were usually grounds for the appointments of my commanders Hitler, both during the Soviet counter-offensive near Moscow and later. For example, on March 25, 1944, at a meeting with the command of the Wehrmacht, Hitler stated that, according to air reconnaissance, "only separate enemy tanks were noted, from which entire military units of the Germans fled, and because of this, continuous

but the front line is being pulled back. The commander of Army Group South, Field Marshal Erich von Manstein, sharply objected that "if the troops can no longer hold on to separate areas, this is due to their excessive fatigue, exhaustion and reduction in numbers." Five days later, Manstein was fired. His resignation was due to the fact that Hitler considered the field marshal a master of the offensive, not of defense. And the fact that the troops of Army Group South subordinated to Manstein at that period really often showed instability and unwillingness to fight is evidenced in German memoirs. For example, General F.V. Mellentin notes that even at the beginning of 1944 in Ukraine, "the rear of all formations of the first echelon accumulated at the higher education institutions; in the same place, when the enemy attacked, people rushed who did not feel much desire

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Hitler's adjutant Nikolaus von Below also reports the same in his memoirs: "In the autumn of 1945, the war entered a particularly cruel stage. Surprising at this time was the behavior of front-line soldiers. Of the millions who put on the uniform of the ground forces, a relatively small number were in direct combat on the fronts. A significant part of these troops was tied up under the cart and supplies. Again and again Hitler gave instructions to comb through the rear services and the reserve army and send young contingents to the front. I don't know what's the matter here, but all efforts to throw in large numbers of reinforcements to the exhausted fighting units did not give the expected result. The number of personnel of all formations of the ground forces was below the average level. Battalion commanders rejoiced when they had 200-200 men. And when it came to combat, those numbers plummeted. However, the spirit of the soldiers, their readiness to act and the will to fight remained stable, and Hitler's role as Führer was undeniable. Many of them were firmly convinced that he had in reserve both weapons and combat formations - the basis for new successes, paving the way to victory. But, in contrast to this certainty, those who could see the situation as a whole and get a complete picture of it knew that defeat is only a matter of time.

Hitler, unfortunately for the peoples, possessed certain military and military organizing abilities and relied on the powerful German military tradition. Unlimited dictatorial power also helped him. And to deal with



Germany and her rather weak allies, the rest of the world had to unite.

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Assassination attempt on Hitler November 9, 1939

Altogether, two assassination attempts were made on Hitler, both of which had rather high chances of success and failed due to accidents that the assassins were unable to foresee. The first, less well-known, was carried out by the Munich carpenter Georg Elsner, who sympathized with the Social Democrats, but was not a member of any party. He planted a bomb in the wooden pillar of the Bürgerbräukeller on the 16th anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch, November 9, 1939. From its explosion, 7 "old cameras" - participants in the putsch - were killed. Another 63 people were wounded. However, by that time Hitler had managed to finish his speech and leave the pub. This time, because of the outbreak of war, Hitler spoke much less than usual at the anniversaries of the events of 1925, and, as he was in a hurry to the meeting, he did not stay at the Bürgerbräukeller to talk with old comrades. This saved his life.

Hitler's adjutant von Below recalled: "Late in the evening (I was already in bed) I was informed by telephone: an assassination attempt was made at a party ceremonial meeting in the Burgerbräukeller beer hall - a bomb was blown up right among its participants, When the Fuhrer had already left the hall. This news acted as a wake-up call. She clearly showed us that Hitler had enemies ready for anything. When the Führer showed up at the Reichs Chancellery the next day, punctually and exactly at the appointed time, it was obvious that he was greatly agitated by this event. But he accepted congratulations on a happy outcome calmly and with concentration. He said that his salvation from death is a miracle, which he perceives as a

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a sign that he will succeed in his task as head of the Reich. It was reported from Munich that 8 people were killed and more than 60 were wounded. The Fuhrer took an active part in the fate of both their relatives and the victims.

Three days later, Hitler again flew to Munich, attended the solemn state act of the "Gallery of the Generals", visited the injured in the hospital and was greatly shocked to see the beer hall destroyed by the bomb. The investigation showed that the intruder named Elsner, who was detained while crossing the Swiss border, acted alone and, probably, no one was behind him.

Indeed, Elsner was a typical lone terrorist and a staunch antifascist who sympathized with the Social Democrats. Nazi propaganda blamed British intelligence for the assassination, and two British agents were even kidnapped in Holland by Schellenberg's men and presented as Elsner's accomplices (they survived the war safely in a German concentration camp). The carpenter himself was killed in Sachsenhausen on April 9, 1945, and it was officially announced that he had died during an Anglo-American air raid. It is not known whether Hitler gave the order for the assassination, or someone close to him, like Himmler, to please the Fuhrer in the end.

#### Myths about the 20 July conspiracy

According to Hitler's adjutant von Below, in the German ground forces as early as 1938, on the eve of the Sudeten crisis, there was a group of generals who "from the very beginning took a position

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the opposite of Hitler's. It included Beck, Halder, von Stülpnagel, von Witzleben and Goepfner, who considered the plans for an attack on Czechoslovakia too risky and fraught with a world war for which Germany was not ready. Subsequently, they all took part in the July 20 plot and were executed. The "solid Hitlerites" then included Guderian, Reichenau, Keitel and Bush. Three of these became field marshals, and only one of them was executed by court martial. And about a third of the 40 top generals of the ground forces of that time took an indifferent position, not particularly sympathetic to Hitler, but not daring to oppose him either.

Hitler was generally quite suspicious of the aristocracy. Von Below recalled: "Two princes from the Prussian and Welsh dynasties, whom I knew from joint military service, conspired

We shared with me about Hitler's order, according to which all descendants of the formerly ruling royal families were to be expelled from the active troops and used only in rear establishments. This order was known to me, as was the sharp and stern commentary of the Fuhrer to him. In principle, he treated them with respect and recognized their military merit, but insisted that they must behave in accordance with the new form of state, and therefore he could no longer grant princes any privileges. To this, the princes objected to me that it was precisely this kind of privilege that they had never claimed, but wanted only one thing: to carry out their service, like any other front-line soldier. However, I could not help them in any way." It is clear that both aristocrats, and not only princes of the blood, with rare exceptions

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they had no love for Hitler and National Socialism. It is no coincidence that it was people from aristocratic families who formed the backbone of the July 20 conspiracy.

On January 9, 1942, Göppner, one of the active participants in the conspiracy, was removed from the post of commander of the 4th Panzer Army for an unauthorized retreat. Hitler issued a special order: "Colonel General Göppner has jeopardized my authority as Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht and head of the Greater German Reich. Colonel General Göppner is expelled from the armed forces with all the ensuing consequences. However, thanks to the intercession of Hitler's Adjutant General, General Rudolf Schmundt, Göppner was not, as often stated, brought to trial by a military tribunal, and at the end of June 1942 he was dismissed from the army without the right to wear a uniform, but with the preservation of his rank and with a full pension, also retaining his former nyuyu official service apartment. Ironically, Schmundt died from wounds received during the assassination attempt on July 20, 1944.

Interestingly, rumors about the impending assassination attempt on Hitler spread several months before it actually took place. So, back in February 1944, a press message from Stockholm reached Hitler that his future assassin was already ready. One officer of the general staff of the ground forces allegedly intends to shoot Hitler. The Fuhrer summoned his adjutant Nikolaus von Belov and, having acquainted him with this message, ordered that everything be done to prevent such an attempt.

Von Below discussed this problem with the commandant of the Fuhrer's Headquarters and with SS Standartenführer Ratten

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Huber, who was in charge of Hitler's personal security. They came to the conclusion that it was necessary to immediately introduce a check of the briefcases and large folders of all visitors in order to detect weapons hidden in them. As von Below writes, "we failed to carry out this measure in East Prussia, because after a conversation with Hitler we boarded a train and temporarily transferred his Headquarters to Obersalzberg and Berchtesgaden. The Fuehrer agreed to a plan to build up concrete walls and a ceiling in his bunker at the Wolf's Lair, but for the time being he would command from the Obersalzberg. There I immediately asked him what measures should be taken to control the visitors. He showed no interest in the subject, but said he would talk directly to Rattenhuber about it. Whether the conversation took place or not, I did not notice. In any case, there have been no changes to the usual security measures on the Obersalzberg." The planned reconstruction of the bunker in the "Wolf's Lair" quite unexpectedly saved Hitler's life. Since the reconstruction of the bunker was not completed on July 20, the next meeting was held in a light hut, where all the windows were opened for some because of the heat. This significantly reduced the damaging effect of the bomb explosion. In an underground concrete bunker, Hitler was much less likely to survive.

This is how von Below remembered the assassination attempt: "The discussion of the situation, as always, began with Heusinger's report on the situation on the Eastern Front. I stood a little aside and clarified with other adjutants the program of Mussolini's reception. I suddenly became interested in one point in Heusinger's report, and I went to the other side of the table to get a better look at the map with the situation lying on it. Here I stood for several minutes before the bomb exploded.

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It happened at 12:40. For a moment I lost consciousness. When I woke up, I saw fragments of wood and piles of broken glass lying around. My first thought was to get out of here as soon as possible. I climbed out the window and ran

around the barracks to the main entrance. My head was buzzing, blood was pouring from it and from my throat, I was almost deaf. At the entrance to the barracks, I saw a terrible picture. Several seriously wounded were already lying there, while other wounded could hardly stand on their feet and fell. Hitler was brought out by Field Marshal Keitel. His uniform and trousers hung in tatters, but, as it seemed to me, he did not receive serious bodily injuries. The Fuhrer immediately went to his bunker, where doctors took care of him. It turned out that 11 participants of the meeting were seriously injured; they were immediately taken to a hospital located four kilometers from Headquarters. |

All the rest were lightly, and some quite seriously wounded, almost all of them had burst eardrums. I rushed to the neighboring communication barracks, called Lieutenant Colonel Sander, who was in charge of it, by telephone and ordered him to immediately block communications for everyone except Hitler, Keitel and Jodl so that false news would not leak out.

Then I hurried to the Fuhrerbunker. When I entered, I saw Hitler sitting in his workroom. He had the excited, almost joyful face of a man who expected something serious, but happily avoided it. He asked me about my injuries, and I replied that we were all incredibly lucky.

The conversation immediately turned to the reasons for the assassination and the identity of the assassin. Hitler categorically rejected the suspicion that the explosion was carried out by employees of the "Organization Todt", who had been working in this barracks a few days before.

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In the meantime, they discovered the absence of Count Stauffenberg and began to look for him. It was soon established that after the discussion began, he quietly left, and then in the next room he tried to talk on the telephone, but, without waiting for the connection and leaving his folder, he hurried to the car, in which Lieutenant von Heften, his lieutenant officer, was already sitting. The commandant of the Fuhrer's Headquarters had already announced the alarm, so that all posts were instructed not to let anyone through. Stauffenberg's car was able to pass the outer checkpoint only after the adjutant of the commandant of the Stavka allowed it by telephone. He knew Stauffenberg personally, had breakfast with him in the morning, and suggested that the colonel needed to urgently return to Berlin. He did not see any connection between the explosion and the count's haste; thus, Stauffenberg was able to freely drive up to the skin that was giving him and already go

ready to take off "Xe-111" of the chief of logistics of the ground forces. Gradually, more and more new details became known, and soon Stauffenberg's involvement in the assassination attempt no longer left any doubts.

To conduct a police and forensic investigation, Himmler, who was immediately appointed commander of the reserve army, received all the powers. After a short stay in the "Wolf's Lair", where Goering also arrived, he immediately flew to Berlin in order to be closer to further events ... At first, it was not possible to get a clear idea from them by telephone. Stauffenberg's flight from Rastenburg to Berlin's Rangsdorf airfield required two hours, and the journey to the Reich War Office about another hour.

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Thus, it could be expected that Stauffenberg would appear on the Bendlerstrasse only after 4 pm. Not earlier could, presumably, come to Berlin and Himmler.

So several hours passed, during which we were able to put ourselves in order again. I was taken to the code military doctor, who gave me first aid and bandaged me. When I returned to Headquarters, the doctor accompanying Goering took care of me, he ascertained a concussion of the brain and prescribed bed rest. Goering ordered that SS guards be posted in front of my room and see to it that I did not get up. This, of course, turned out to be impossible, since of all the adjutants I received the lightest wound and was more or less able to serve.

Professor Brandt allowed me to resume my duties in the evening. This was necessary, for Hitler was already very active. After supper and an evening discussion of the situation, he spoke to me. The Führer already knew that Schmundt and Borgmann were seriously injured, and that Puttka had to lie down due to a knee injury. I needed an assistant, and I asked the Führer if Lieutenant Colonel von Amsberg could be brought in. A few years ago he had been Keitel's adjutant and knew the conditions at Headquarters well. Hitler immediately agreed. But most of all he was concerned about the question of whom he should appoint chief of the general staff of the ground forces. Colonel General Zeitzler was considered ill. In addition, the Führer did not want to see him again at all. As a successor, he thought of Guderian. Personally, I considered Guderian unsuitable for this post. General Bule or General Krebs seemed more suitable to me. But Hitler decided the issue in favor of General Guderian.

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Already in the evening, many details from Berlin became known. There Minister Goebbels seized the initiative. He summoned the commander of the Berlin security battalion, Major Remer, and put him on the phone with Hitler. The Fuhrer ordered him to restore order in Berlin by force of arms.

Stauffenberg and his lieutenant Lieutenant von Heften, as well as General of the Infantry Olbricht, Chief of Staff of the General Directorate of the Ground Forces, Colonel of the General Staff Ritter 'Merz von Kvirnheim were shot. Colonel General Beck was forced to commit suicide. Hitler was clearly angry with these measures and ordered that the rest of the captured conspirators be brought to trial by the People's Tribunal.

On July 22, Colonel Brandt, posthumously promoted to major general, died, who shortly before the explosion moved the briefcase left by Stauffenberg and thereby saved the Fuhrer. Subsequently, it became known that Brandt also belonged to one of the Resistance groups, but was not aware of the Stauffenberg assassination attempt.

As von Below recalls, "the Fuhrer's Headquarters received daily reports from Himmler's headquarters about the results of the investigation into the assassination attempt. Each report contained new names of members of the Resistance. The list of them showed more and more clearly that the backbone of this Resistance was largely conservative circles. The nobility was represented in it so broadly that the voices of those who indiscriminately condemned all this estate were multiplying.

The testimonies given in Soviet captivity by one of the participants in the conspiracy, a close friend of Klaus Stauffenberg, Major Joachim Kuhn, have been preserved.

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Stauffenberg told him on February 35, 1943, immediately after Stalingrad: "The way out that we have been looking for so long is the establishment of a temporary military dictatorship ..." And on May 6, 1943, a few days before the fall of Tunisia, where he himself was hard wounded, declared: "A successful struggle against National Socialism, its fanatical theories and goals, that is, the path to the salvation of the people, can only go along the path of eliminating

personality and its immediate environment. This proves once again that most of the conspirators were quite far from the principles of democracy and did not count on the support of the broad masses (they did not meet it in the Wehrmacht either). Stauffenberg admitted that he would carry out an assassination attempt on Hitler as early as October 19435.

Stauffenberg and other participants in the conspiracy hoped to kill the Fuhrer, seize power in the country and achieve peace with the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition on the condition that Germany be preserved as an independent state within the borders of 1937. But even if the assassination attempt had succeeded, there were practically no real chances for the conspirators to realize their plan. It is unlikely that the SS troops led by Himmler would have surrendered without a fight after the death of Hitler, and the main part of the Wehrmacht would have supported Beck, Goerdeler, Witzleben, Geppner and Stauffenberg. F. Zenger was right when he said: "What was left to do? Hitler could probably be got rid of, but that would not have eliminated the whole gang of gangsters who held the reins of power and were ready to be tried as criminals. Many of my young friends (participants in the conspiracy - B.S.) dreamed that the Western powers would start negotiations with the new German government, with

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standing from the rebellious generals. They did not understand that even foreigners who knew Germany well ... held "militarism" responsible for Hitler's rise to power, although no section of the country's population produced as many of his opponents as the German army. They hoped to be known as opponents of Hitler abroad, because they were considered as such in Germany itself, and this made them believe in the possibility of negotiations. However, our opponents were only interested in unconditional surrender, and to no small extent the reason for this was the prevailing public opinion abroad.

After all, the conspirators had at least some support only among the high command and military administration of the Western Front, but, I note, not among those who directly commanded combat units. On the Eastern Front and in Italy, as well as on the territory of the Reich, not only the highest commanders, with the exception of the command of the reserve army, but there were no commanders of combat units and formations on their side, and they moved the guard battalion of Otto Ernst Remer to Berlin



government buildings only with the help of lies about the death of Hitler and the SS attempt to seize power, which was very quickly exposed. It was the lack of forces that prevented the conspirators from isolating the main centers of power in Berlin and cutting off their connection with the Wolfschanze. After Hitler's death, power would certainly have passed to Goering, who at that moment was listed as the official successor to the Fuhrer and was not in the headquarters barracks at the time of the assassination attempt. Also, Himmler could not have suffered in any way during the assassination attempt, which means that he could have brought the SS troops into action. And not only the Luftwaffe would support him

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and the navy, where the vast majority of the officer corps sympathized with the Nazis, who recreated these types of German armed forces, but also the majority of generals, officers and soldiers of the ground forces, not to mention the SS troops.

The inhabitants of the Wolfschanze would certainly immediately be able to provide evidence that it was the conspirators who killed their beloved Fuhrer, and this would immediately turn away most of the soldiers and officers from them. So even in the event of Hitler's death from the Stauffenberg bomb, the National Socialist regime would almost certainly have survived, most likely led by Goering and with the increased role of Himmler. However, the role of the Reichsfuehrer after July 20 already increased, since he led the reserve army, privatized the Abwehr and sent a number of SS officers to a number of army headquarters. There can be no doubt that in the event of the death of Hitler, the outcome of the war would be the same as in reality. and about the same time frame. Goering and Himmler most likely would have tried to start negotiations with one of the partners in the anti-Hitler goats, as they did in the last days of Hitler's life, and the result would have been the same - less than the allies would have unconditionally surrendered.

didn't go.

The countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, which were terrified by the combat power of the Wehrmacht, and not only by Hitler's aggressive aspirations, even after the death of the Fuhrer, would not have refused the demand for unconditional surrender even in the absolutely incredible case if Hitler's opponents had come to power. And how would the participants in the conspiracy of July 20 try to win the people and the army over to their side? A call to surrender to the mercy of those against whom five years

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did total propaganda call for a life-and-death struggle? Even if the commander of the Western Front, Kluge, had tried to conclude a truce with the Allies in the event of Hitler's death, his order would hardly have been carried out. And the outcome of the putsch would have been the same as it actually turned out to be.

It must be admitted that Stauffenberg and most of his comrades were driven by noble goals. But it must be emphasized that, unfortunately, there was practically no hope for the success of their enterprise. At the same time, some of the conspirators, for example, the imperial head of the criminal police, SS Gruppenführer Artur Nebe, in the event of an Allied victory, were threatened with a sure gallows for active participation in the "final solution of the Jewish question." In the most difficult months of 1941, he commanded Einsatzgruppe B on the Eastern Front, which killed about 50,000 Jews. And they hanged him, ironically, for participating in the July conspiracy.

Hitler was appalled by the scale of the conspiracy and by the involvement of many individuals whom he had previously implicitly trusted. This, along with the further deterioration of the military and political situation, greatly upset his health. On September 26, 1944, Himmler reported to him about the actions of the conspirators back in 1938-1939, naming the names of Admiral Kanaris, the former Mayor of Leipzig Herdeler, Generals Oster, Donany and Beck. The Reichsfuehrer reported that the dates for the start of the campaign in the west were constantly given out to the enemy. It turned out that already then plans were being developed to remove Hitler from power or kill him. These reports caused a serious deterioration in the Führer's health. At the end of September, Hitler began acute stomach cramps and convulsions. Dr. Morell diagnosed that the cause

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illness is a severe mental condition. Hitler had to lie in bed for several days, and only at the beginning of October did he return to business.

\_The fact that he participated in the resistance movement, close to the conspirators on July 20, was stated at the Nuremberg Trials on August 9, 1946 by SS Standartenfuehrer Dr. Wolfram Sievers, manager of the affairs of the Ahnenerbe society (in 1948 he was hanged for involvement in experiments over the conclusion

concentration camps, including inoculation of artificially created infections): "I joined both the party and as a prominent member of the secret organization of the Resistance movement, I received a task from it. It was a certain post in the "Ahnenerbe" that gave us the opportunity to carry out underground work against the Nazi system ... I had in mind a secret organization headed by Dr. Hilscher, who was arrested in connection with the events of July 20, detained by the Gestapo and spent a long time in prison. lengthy period. I repeatedly protested against these experiments, which led Himmler to issue an order ... according to which resistance to these experiments was considered treason, which meant the death penalty. Incidentally, he told me that no one asked me to carry out these experiments, for which he alone was responsible. Incidentally, such experiments have been performed on people more than once, and they cannot be avoided. This is evidenced by the well-known experiments on people conducted in 1900 by Diet and later by Goldberger in America. Despite this, my remorse..." Here the American prosecutor Jones interrupted the interrogation, telling VIV THAT THIS IS "An attempt to avoid a confession."

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And no one will answer what Nebe, Sievers and those other few conspirators who were involved in crimes against humanity were counting on. Is it possible that the Allies will refuse the demand for unconditional surrender and turn a blind eye to the crimes committed under the Nazis? Although, if the crimes of the Einsatzgruppen on Soviet territory there were practically no chances to hide, even if the conspiracy of July 20 was successful and some German government would remain in Germany after the end of the war, then destroy materials about experiments on people with whom anyone was related -either of the conspirators, there was still a chance.

Eight hours after the assassination attempt, Hitler delivered a radio address to the German people. Still not recovering from the shell shock, he declared: "German citizens and women!

I do not know for the umpteenth time that an assassination attempt was prepared and carried out on me. If I address you today, I do it for two reasons.

\_ So that you can hear my voice and know that I am safe and sound.

In order that you may learn the details of a crime which has no parallel in the history of the German people.

A very small clique of vain, unscrupulous, and at the same time criminally stupid officers created a conspiratorial plot to eliminate me and, together with me, liquidate the command headquarters of the German armed forces. A bomb planted by Colonel Count von Stauffenberg exploded two meters to my right. A number of my valuable employees were seriously injured by it - one of them died.

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I myself was completely unharmed, except for light skin abrasions, bruises and burns. I take this as a confirmation of the instruction given to me by Providence to continue to strive towards the realization of my life goal in the same way as I have done so far.

For I can solemnly declare before the whole nation that from the day I came to Wilhelmstrasse, I had only one thought - to faithfully fulfill my duty and that since I was convinced of the inevitability and urgency of war, I knew to put it bluntly, only care and work, and in countless days and sleepless nights I lived only for my people.

At an hour when the German army is waging the hardest struggle, and in Germany, as earlier in Italy, there was an insignificant small group of people who believed that they could stab the nation in the back, as in 1918. This time they were gravely mistaken.

The assertion of these usurpers that I am not alive has been refuted from the moment at which I, my dear German fellow citizens, address you with this speech. The circle represented by these usurpers is exceptionally small (one immediately recalls the famous Leninist words: "The circle of these revolutionaries is narrow, they are terribly far from the people", which is quite applicable to Stauffenberg and his comrades. Not only the people, but also the mainstream could not support them. , a mass of Wehrmacht officers, not to mention the soldiers. - B.S.). With the German armed forces, and in particular with the German ground forces, it has nothing in common. This is an insignificantly small gang of criminal elements, which will now be mercilessly destroyed.

In order to finally restore order, I appointed Reich Minister Himmler as commander of all

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rear troops. In order to replace the Chief of the General Staff, who was temporarily ill, I called Colonel General Guderian to the General Staff instead of him and appointed him, one of the most experienced military leaders of the Eastern Front.

In all other institutions of the Reich, everything remains unchanged. I am convinced that, after the liquidation of this insignificant clique of traitors and conspirators, we will create in the rear the atmosphere that the fighters at the front need. For it is absolutely unacceptable that at a time when thousands and millions of soldiers are sacrificing their last in the front line, an insignificant band of ambitious and miserable creatures in the rear could try to prevent this sacrifice.

This time we will settle accounts with them in the way that is customary among us National Socialists. I am convinced that at this hour every decent officer and every brave soldier will understand our actions.

What fate would have befallen Germany if the assassination attempt had succeeded, perhaps only a very few can imagine. I am personally grateful to Providence and the Creator not because He saved my life — my life consists in caring and working for my people — but I am grateful to Him because He gave me the opportunity to continue to take care of the people and continue my work so so that I can answer for her to my conscience.

It is the duty of every German, whoever he may be, to offer a merciless rebuff to these elements, either to arrest them immediately or, at the slightest resistance, to destroy them without hesitation. Orders have been issued for all military units. They will be unquestioningly executed in accordance with the traditions of obedience that are inherent in the German army.

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Once again I especially greet you, my old comrades-in-arms, because once again I managed to escape a fate that for myself did not hide anything terrible, but which would have brought many horrors to the German people. I see in this the finger of Providence, indicating that I must continue my work, and therefore I will continue it.

The conspirators nevertheless turned out to be by no means "not a small gang." Several thousand people were arrested on charges of involvement in the events of July 20, of which about two hundred were executed, and more

several dozen officers committed suicide.

Himmler, after the assassination attempt, attacked the officer corps of the Wehrmacht, which he accused of defeatism and of treating the Russian population too softly. Speaking in Poznan on August 5, 1944, he, in particular, stated: "Something was clear to us before. Through these headquarters in 1941, 1942 and 1943. a growing spirit of defeatism constantly penetrated the troops from top to bottom. The front in the East was healthy. But when some gallant commander arrived at this headquarters from the front line, the chief of staff (in many cases a member of the Schlieffen Association Masonic lodge, which was not dissolved by us in 1933/34) approached him and with a worried face, wrinkling his forehead, to reinforce the fighting spirit of this soldier-front-line soldier, he brought him to a map with the applied situation and explained to him how difficult, critical the current situation had become and what was the initial one. And all this, you know, in such delicate terms that they just have a place in the explanatory dictionary. So, he explains to him how, in fact, if one adheres to tactical considerations, the front line should have passed, but, to

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unfortunately, ah, unfortunately! (this, of course, cannot be said aloud, because this is an order of the Headquarters) - this was done contrary to all reasonable military rules, which we are so good at; but it is quite clear that it was absolutely impossible to do this, but we are soldiers, we obey ...

The understanding of duty at the headquarters in many cases was catastrophic. I say to the officer corps quite openly that from now on I will be held accountable for this, I will be educated

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If we look at aerial photographs, we can immediately say: these are Russian positions, and these are not German! The German ones are those with only one rifle cells. Because gentlemen officers at that time are in the countryside, in Russian houses, living with Russian women, and are not at all on the front line with their people. Well, if the officer is not on the edge in front of him, then the private too. His soldiers dug into several single cells, then the Russians begin artillery preparation, and everything - people, vehicles, and tanks - is covered with this artillery fire, and then the Russians strike. And the soldier does not even have to open that anti-tank gap in advance! It goes without saying

he is crushed or he, at best, drapes from there. He was ordered to run away, because he cannot do anything in the cell. Well, then comes the breakthrough. With great difficulty here and there we manage to iron the hole. We were still able to do this in 1941/42, sometimes even in 1943, while the infantry had strength. But it cost us a lot of uselessly lost people. And then people

again climbed into the trenches.

With the Russian population, if they lived and had fun with them, they could no longer be treated harshly. When we said: let's bring Russian women here, let them

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dig trenches for us, they heard in response: we can't treat the women of this people like that! When I once asked in Mariupol: why don't you put the road to Taganrog in order, it's just in a pig state, here any car is kaput, they answered me: yes, of course, it should be, only we don't have a labor force. Yes, you have a whole city of Mariupol, full of people, take them! Again they answer me: who should organize the food supply? I say: what do you think, the Russians will organize it for you? Here I can't stand it: call the headman or the [German] commissar of this city right away and order that tomorrow early in the morning, at 6.00, there should be 10,000 women and men with shovels and picks. And if they don't show up, I'll drive you to Siberia, to a camp on the Arctic Ocean, and even farther! They will be right there. These women only need to be told: dig a machine-gun nest here, you need to do this and that.

However, the scale of repression, even taking into account the fact that in the last weeks of the war dozens, if not hundreds of army officers were shot by the SS on charges of retreating without an order, after July 20 far did not reach the scale of the terror carried out by Stalin in 1937-1938 against the highest commanders of the Red Army. On charges of participating in a conspiracy on July 20, two field marshals (Kluge and Rommel), who commanded the front and the army group, and one colonel general, who commanded the army of the reserve, were executed or committed suicide from among the military leaders who were in active service ( Fromm). In addition, a retired field marshal and a colonel general (Witzleben and Göppner) were executed, and another colonel general (Beck) committed suicide. Not by

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not one of the commanders of the armies and army groups suffered anymore. Stalin destroyed three marshals out of five, 5 commanders of the 1st rank out of 6, 10 commanders of the 2nd rank out of 12, 60 out of 67 commanders suffered, 136 out of 199 divisional commanders ... Compared to the Secretary General, the Fuhrer showed commendable moderation, especially since he actually executed the conspirators.

Nevertheless, it was a tragic shock to Hitler that his own generals and colonels tried to blow him up. He repeatedly repeated that in vain he did not carry out a large-scale purge of the Wehrmacht, following the example of Stalin. And now belatedly carried out such a purge. But, unlike the Soviet dictator, he executed by no means all suspicious generals, but only those; against whom there was strong evidence in favor of participation in the conspiracy. Those against whom evidence was not found, such as, for example, the former Chief of the General Staff of the Ground Forces Franz Halder, remained in the concentration camp until the end of the war and escaped execution.

In late October 1944, Hitler shared his thoughts on the conspiracy with his adjutant von Below. He recalled: "Everything investigated and reported to him by Himmler led to his illness. No one can imagine the pain he has to endure every day. It turns out that everything was given to the enemy: the preparations for the campaign in France, the date of the offensive, and the objectives of the first operations. The day of the beginning of the campaign against Russia was also issued to the enemy. In Germany, nothing remains a secret anymore. But Admiral Kanaris acted in the most insidious way. And Goerdeler was also one of the most engaged conspirators, everything is clear with him now. He confessed everything, but Canaris, he denies everything.

The bulk of the attackers captured, Hitler said, were more or less involved in the plot.

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less random. The number of biased conspirators who participated entirely and completely in the implementation of criminal plans is quite small. The Fuhrer called General von Tresckow an active participant in the conspiracy: his hand was everywhere, but then he voluntarily took his own life, which means that he soberly assessed the situation when the attempt failed. The Führer seemed to me especially distressed by the fact that many of the conspirators were by origin from "educated circles": it was precisely in such people that he more or less blindly trusted. What makes him suffer and disgusts him is not that they betrayed him personally, but that they betrayed him.



Germany. "For quite a long time," continued Hitler, "I knew that the 'best circles' of our people were against me. But the art of not knowing fluctuations is an inexhaustible source of my strength!

A month and a half later, after the catastrophes in Romania and France at Falaise, Hitler even regretted that he had not died from the Stauffenberg bomb. On August 31, 1944, the Fuhrer declared: "If my life ended on July 20, it would be for me deliverance from worries, sleepless nights and severe mental suffering!"

On February 24, 1945, speaking for the last time to the Gauleiters in Berlin, Hitler declared: "We saw the face of our class enemy on the left, but, moreover, we forgot to strike at the enemy on the right. This is our great omission and sin.

Contrary to popular belief, the vast majority of the participants in the 20 July conspiracy had very little to do with democracy. Among the few representatives of the democratic direction can be attributed Goerdeler, the former Oberburgo master of Leipzig, elected in free elections.

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during the Weimar Republic from the conservative German National Party. The generals, on the other hand, were about to establish a military dictatorship and objected to Goerdeler's candidacy for the post of new Reich Chancellor. The former chief of the general staff, Colonel-General Ludwig Beck, was dearer to them in this post. If we imagine the unbelievable that the conspirators would have succeeded in killing Hitler, taking power into their own hands, and obtaining from the allies a compromise peace with the preservation of Germany's independence, albeit within truncated borders, then an authoritarian regime would have been established in the country, perhaps a milder one. than under Pinochet, but tougher than under Putin.

## Myths about a separate world

For the first time, the possibility of a separate peace between England and Germany was seriously discussed in the world press when, on May 11, 1940, Hitler's deputy for the party, Rudolf Hess, suddenly flew on a Me-110 plane to the British Isles and parachuted over the territory of Scotland. Observers suspected that Hess had arrived on a secret mission from Hitler to negotiate peace with the British.

skim government, then to fall upon Russia. Stalin was especially worried about this. All doubts were dispelled only on June 22, when, after Hitler's attack on the USSR, Churchill announced Britain's full support for the struggle of the Soviet people and government.

Speculation about the secret mission of Hess and his negotiations with representatives of the British authorities still appear. Fortunately, until now all the documents related to Hess's contacts in England are

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covered in British archives. On the other hand, there is enough evidence from the German side that Hitler was completely unaware of his deputy's intentions to fly to England and learned about his flight only after the Reichsleiter was already in the British Isles. On May 12, the day after Hess's flight, Hitler declared: "The letter left behind, for all its confusion, unfortunately bears the features of a mental disorder, giving reason to fear that our party comrade Hess has become a victim of insanity." When the British reported that Hess was of sound mind and sound memory, Hitler once decided to publish an official report that Hess was very tired physically and was fond of magnetism and astrology, which explains his strange act. Of course, there was no talk of any secret mission of Hess on behalf of Hitler. The Fuhrer even sent both of Hess's adjutants to a concentration camp for not keeping track of their boss, despite Hitler's categorical order. Hitler's adjutant von Below, who knew Hess well, wrote in his memoirs: "Has Hess really been prone to extravagant views lately, or, more precisely, was he out of his mind? I came to the conclusion that only a completely healthy and normal person could make such a night flight in a two-engine Me-110 aircraft in one night. For me, Hess was just like that and completely in control of his feelings. His desire to establish contact with the British in order to stop the war seemed to me very normal and correct. Hess knew Hitler very well and his thoughts about the conduct of the war, and especially precisely his intention to oppose Russia. I'm considering Hess's flight

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Indeed, Hess, aware of the impending German attack on Russia, tried at his own risk to convince the British to unite with Hitler for a campaign against Russia, which would also be in their interests, since it would eradicate the Bolshevik threat to the British Empire. But he didn't succeed.

On November 7, 1942, immediately after the landing of the Americans in Algiers, Ribbentrop, according to von Belov, having met Hitler in Bamberg, proposed through the Russian embassy in Stockholm to establish contact with Stalin and offer far-reaching concessions in the east, but "Hitler does not want. He said: a moment of weakness is not good for negotiating with the enemy. Ribbentrop himself confirms this in his memoirs, written in the Nuremberg prison. He noted that he had suggested to Hitler that he give up most of the conquered eastern regions, but, according to Ribbentrop, "I had hardly started talking about the surrender of the captured eastern regions, when the Führer immediately reacted to this in the most violent manner. His face swelled

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In this case, the Fuhrer cannot be denied common sense. Although the Stalingrad catastrophe has flared up more than once, the German offensive in southern Russia has already run out of steam, and the landing of the allies in North Africa and the failure of Rommel near El Alamein put

whether the German forces in the Mediterranean basin were in an extremely difficult position. Under these conditions, no sane politician would put up with Hitler.

As Ribbentrop recalled, shortly after the surrender of the 6th Army at Stalingrad, he had another remarkable conversation with Hitler, who spoke admiringly of Stalin: "This example shows how important one person can be for a whole nation. Any other nation, after the crushing blows received in 1941-1942, would no doubt have been broken. If this did not happen to Russia, then the Russian people owe their victory only to the iron firmness of this man, whose inflexible heroism and will called and led the people to continue resistance. Stalin is my biggest adversary, both ideologically and militarily. Should he ever be in my hands, I will show him due respect and leave him at his disposal.

The order is the best castle in Germany. But I will never let such an enemy go free again. The creation of the Red Army is a grandiose undertaking, and Stalin himself, undoubtedly, is a historical figure of an absolutely enormous scale.

It is interesting that such an attitude towards Stalin was by no means determined by an unfavorable for Germ

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research institutes of the military-political conjuncture. As we remember, during the period of the highest successes of the Wehrmacht in 1942, Hitler was ready to give Stalin some state in Asia to control. I note that Stalin never intended to show such generosity to Hitler, if he were in his hands. According to Zhukov's memoirs, when Stalin found out about Hitler's suicide, he swore in his hearts: "You played the game, you bastard! It's a pity that they didn't manage to take him alive ... If Hitler got caught by Stalin, he wouldn't give him any castle, even the worst one, but only the good old gallows.

Ribbentrop, having listened to Stalin's praises, considered the moment auspicious to renew his proposal for negotiations with Russia. Hitler, however, did not even bother to read the memorandum on the subject. Later, in conversations on this subject, Hitler repeated to Ribbentrop more than once: first, a decisive military success must be achieved, and then we will see what to do next. Ribbentrop nevertheless took the risk of starting negotiations with the Russians at Stockholm on his own initiative through Kleist's adviser. However, the Minister of Foreign Affairs practically did not define

foreign policy, but could only be a technical executor of Hitler's will. Therefore, without clear authority from the Fuhrer, the negotiations were doomed to failure.

After the capitulation of Italy, according to von Below, "Hitler's associates began to talk to him about plans to negotiate peace with one of these opponents. It was clearly seen that Ribbentrop and Goebbels were very inclined towards this. They tried to win over the Fuhrer to their own side with their ideas about such an agreement with

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Stalin. In principle, Hitler was also inclined to such a possibility, BUT He said that it was POSSIBLE, ONLY standing in a strong position. He hopes more for the collapse of the alliance of our enemies. Establishing mutual understanding with Western states is out of the question. Churchill is an enemy by his own conviction and will not rest until Germany is defeated, even if he himself loses the entire British world empire in the process. He, the Fuhrer, cannot decide on an agreement on peace with Russia, because the Bolsheviks remain enemies of the Reich.

Hitler's attitude to the idea of a separate peace in the autumn of 1945 seemed to me ambivalent. But I assumed that in and of itself he did not completely reject these considerations, even if he later returned to the point of view that only struggle can bring victory. However, he soon stood in this position completely alone. German troops retreated on all fronts. Confidence in victory was disappearing, only the belief that the Fuhrer would find a way out remained unbroken. Faith this way gave Hitler the consciousness of his messianism, he could not believe that all German efforts and hardships, gigantic losses from the bombings and victims on the fronts would be in vain. In these weeks of autumn 1943, I saw that the Führer was full of deep faith in his mission and seemed to hope for a miracle.

Ribbentrop also testifies that after the withdrawal of Italy from the war, Hitler "took a position not so negative in relation to negotiations with the Russians. He, together with me, went up to the map and himself showed on it the demarcation line, on which it would be possible to agree with the Russians. Hitler promised to think about this idea, but never gave Ribbentrop the necessary authority. Rights

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Yes, Hitler told Mussolini, who had just been liberated by Skorzeny's detachment, who arrived at Headquarters, that he would like to negotiate with Russia, but this time things did not go further than talks. Later, the Führer told Ribbentrop: "If I come to an agreement with Russia today, then tomorrow I will again wrestle with her, otherwise I cannot!" Ribbentrop, if we are to believe his memoirs, remarked disappointedly: "No foreign policy can be conducted like this, because then all confidence in us will be lost!" As if by 1945 there was at least one country left that trusted Hitler!

On August 30, 1944, Ribbentrop handed Hitler a memorandum proposing to begin the search for peace in all directions. In this note, the minister quoted Hitler's *My Struggle*: "The task of diplomacy is to ensure that the people do not die heroically, but continue to exist. Any path leading to this goal is justified, and not to use it is a crime worthy of damnation.

This note also had no effect. But Kleist just at that time reported from Stockholm that the Russians had expressed their readiness to make contact. When Ribbentrop reported this to Hitler, he finally agreed to start sounding in Stockholm. But the Russian representative never showed up. Obviously, the Soviet side needed only rumors about Soviet-German contacts in Sweden, in order to make it easier to obtain concessions from the allies of the anti-Hitler coalition.

There is a widespread assertion, also reflected in Yulian Semyonov's novel "Seventeen Moments of Spring" and the sensational television series based on it, that the negotiations between Obergruppenführer Karl Wolff and Dulles in Switzerland were ini

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quoted by Himmler and Kaltenbrunner. In fact, as follows from the memoirs of Kesselring, to whom Wolff was subordinate in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the South, it was he who sent Wolff, Chief of the Italian SS and Police, to negotiate peace and then informed Hitler about them. Kesselring gives interesting details about SS General Wolff's mission to Switzerland: "In the spring of 1944, without the knowledge of the OKW - although I later reported my actions to Hitler - I overcame remorse and made contact with the American intermediaries in Switzerland through SS General Wolf,

because he believed that the war should be ended through negotiations at the diplomatic level. I saw this step not as a prelude to the surrender of troops in my area of responsibility, but as an aid to the government in establishing a negotiating process. This refutes the prevailing opinion in our historiography that the Wolf-Dulles negotiations were initiated by Himmler, whose chief of staff was Wolff at one time, and this was done in secret and directed against Hitler. The assertions of the American side that it was only a question of capitulation in Italy are also refuted. It turns out that Hitler was aware of the negotiations, although not from the very beginning. But Himmler, contrary to the opinion of Yulian Semyonov and many domestic historians, was not aware of the negotiations between Wolf and Dulles, which is why in the last days of the war he was forced to hastily seek contacts with the allies through Count Bernadotte.

At the end of August 1944, Hitler outlined to his adjutant von Below a plan for a future counter-offensive in the Ardennes. He recalled: "Just sfor

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He wanted to launch a far-reaching offensive on the Western Front with battalion divisions and new fighter formations. I immediately asked him why he was not concentrating all his forces against the Russians, and received the answer: he could attack them later, but this would become impossible if the Americans were in the Reich. I could not understand Hitler's position. And I think there was no one in Germany then who could understand this plan of the Fuhrer. All of us then already thought: "First of all, let the Ami (Americans. — B.S.) march into the Reich, and keep the Russians as long as possible away from the old German imperial border." Hitler did not approve of this arrangement. He made it clear that he was more afraid of the authorities of the Jews and Americans than of the authorities of the Bolsheviks. Here, the difference between the attitudes of Hitler and other Nazi leaders and the bulk of the German military and the population of the Reich, who, unlike the Fuhrer, who saw a kindred spirit in Stalin, was clearly manifested, feared the Bolsheviks, and not without reason, much more than the Americans.

The Germans managed to reach the only serious unofficial agreement with the British in the autumn of 1944. Speer testifies: "In my memory, Hitler only once, although extremely reluctantly, agreed to conclude an agreement with the enemy. In the late autumn of 1944, the command of the British

The naval forces made it possible to freely evacuate German garrisons from the seemingly completely blocked islands of the Aegean Sea to the territory of mainland Greece. The ships carrying our soldiers passed within sight of the English ships. In response, the command of the German troops promised to strengthen, at the expense of these units,

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units dropping Thessaloniki and hold the city until the approach of the British divisions. After discussing this action proposed by Jodl, Hitler angrily remarked: "We will not make any more compromises."

There is no doubt that the Germans agreed to this agreement not only in order to save their island garrisons, but also in order to drive a wedge between the allies in the anti-Hitler coalition. After all, the British agreed that the German island garrisons reinforce the garrison of Thessaloniki only because they were afraid that before the British troops this strategically important port could be occupied by Greek communist partisans or even Soviet troops stationed in Bulgaria. The rivalry between the Allies for control of post-war Europe intensified as their armies approached the German borders, and Hitler decided to add fuel to the fire of distrust between Stalin and the Western Allies. It can be assumed that Hitler approved not only the deal, according to which the British received strategically important islands near the Black Sea straits without a fight, but also the negotiations between Wolf and Dulles. Such a conclusion can be drawn from Kesselring's evidence. However, the matter never came to really serious negotiations. Wolff and Dulles did not continue to discuss the terms of the surrender of German troops in Italy.

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In the autumn of 1944, Ribbentrop's wife wrote a letter to Hitler, offering her services to initiate private negotiations with the Soviet ambassador in Stockholm, Alexandra Kollontai. To do this, she was ready to divorce her husband in order to act as

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"unofficial face" and try to probe the intentions of the Russians. However, Hitler likened her intention to an attempt "to touch a white-hot stove with your hand to make sure it is hot." In his own way, the Fuhrer was right. He understood that negotiations would be worth something only if they came from one of the opponents, who before that would have to quarrel very thoroughly with each other. As long as this is not the case, all sorts of soundings are a waste of time, effort and resources.

Finally, in January 1945, Ribbentrop, he said, made one last desperate attempt to negotiate with Stalin. He told Hitler that he was ready to go to Moscow with his whole family and become a kind of hostage in the hands of Stalin as proof of the honesty of German intentions. Hitler only remarked gloomily: "Ribbentrop, don't tell me any stories like Hess

On March 5, 1945, Goebbels wrote in his diary: "The Fuhrer is thinking of finding an opportunity to negotiate with the Soviet Union, and then with the most severe energy to continue the war with England. For England has always been a troublemaker in Europe. If it were finally expelled from Europe, then we would live, at least for a certain period of time, in peace. Soviet atrocities are, of course, horrendous and have a profound effect on the concept of the Fuhrer. But after all, the Mongols, like the Soviets today, were outrageous in their time in Europe, without influencing the political resolution of the then contradictions. Invasions from the east come and go, and Europe must deal with them."

On April 19, 1945, the best pilot of the Luftwaffe, Colonel Hans Ulrich Rudel, met for the last time.

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talked to Hitler and told him that: "From my point of view, at this moment the war cannot be ended with a victory on both fronts, but it can still be won on one front if we can conclude a truce on the other."

A weary smile crossed his face.

"It's easy for you to say that. Beginning in 1943, he ceaselessly tried to make peace, but the Allies did not want this; from the very beginning of the war they demanded my unconditional surrender. My personal fate, of course, is of no importance, but every person in his right mind sees that I cannot accept unconditional surrender for the German people. Negotiations are going on even now, but I have abandoned all hopes for their successful completion. Follow-

Therefore, we must do everything to overcome this crisis so that weapons can still bring us victory. At that moment Goering and Himmler began the search for peace, but none of the allies spoke to them. As a result, before his death, Hitler expelled them from the party and ordered their arrest. It is interesting that both Goering and Himmler ended the same way, biting through an ampoule of potassium cyanide. Only the first managed to take part in the Nuremberg Trials before this and receive a death sentence, and the second took an ampoule of poison a few days after his arrest, only this arrest was carried out not by order of Hitler, but by British soldiers.

Western allies and the Soviet Union, as victory approached, increasingly distrusted each other, realizing that in the post-war world the anti-Hitler coalition could not be maintained. Immediately after the suicide of Hitler and the death of the Third Reich, they

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began to prepare for a possible military clash with each other. For example, the commander of the Soviet troops in Germany, Marshal Zhukov, already on June 4, 1945, ordered: "By June 15, 1945, work out plans for raising subunits, units, formations and armies on combat alert ... Build and develop defensive structures only at night time and, as a last resort, in the course of planned defense exercises by small subunits. All trenches built and under construction, communications, NP, OP and other engineering structures by dawn must be carefully camouflaged from the local population and observation of the allies. But in order to begin the process of sliding the former NIKOV alliance into the "Cold War", the Fuhrer and the state he created had to be destroyed. Neither the East nor the West wanted to sit and wait for Hitler to recover and then start a new war.

Racial Doctrine of National Socialism: "Supermen" and "Subhumans"

The paradoxical nature of the racial policy of the Third Reich consisted in the fact that, on the one hand, the superiority of the German race was openly proclaimed, and on the other hand, in speeches intended for external consumption, it was stated that there was no discrimination against the non-German population, with the exception of Jews. , and only the last

put within certain limits, but do not deprive them of more or less normal living conditions.

As the German historian Werner Maser noted, "from Hitler's point of view, the 'correctly' understood polit

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ka appears as a merciless struggle for power within the framework of the struggle for existence dictated by the laws of nature. And this requires the ideological solidity of the people. As Hitler declared on March 19, 1934, "The victory of the party means a change of government, and the victory of the worldview is a revolution that changes the very nature of the people." It was necessary to turn the German people into a "race of masters", capable of commanding the "lower races", and to free all Germans from the chimera called conscience.

At the same time, the Führer, speaking in the Reichstag on September 1, 1939, on the occasion of the declaration of war on Poland, stated arrogantly: "I must state definitely: Germany is complying with its obligations; national minorities who live in Germany are not persecuted. No Frenchman can stand up and say that any Frenchman living in the Saar is oppressed, tortured or deprived of his rights. Nobody can say anything like that."

Himmler, obsessed with the idea of breeding a perfect Nordic man, argued: "If the good blood that underlies our people does not multiply, then we will not be able to establish domination over the world ... A people that has an average of four sons in a family, can dare to go to war, for if two die, the remaining two will continue their lineage. Leaders who have one or two sons will hesitate in making any decision. We can't go for that."

Hitler wrote in Mein Kampf: "Our state will first of all strive to establish a healthy, natural living proportion between the size of our population and the rate of its growth, on the one hand

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one side, and the quantity and quality of our territories, on the other. Only in this way can our foreign policy properly ensure the fate of our race, united in our state.

We can regard as a healthy proportion only that ratio between these two quantities, which completely and completely ensures the subsistence of the people with the products of our own land. Any other state of affairs, if it lasts even for centuries and millennia, is not normal and unhealthy. Sooner or later, such a situation will bring the greatest harm to the people and may lead to their complete destruction.

In order for a people to be able to secure a true freedom of existence for itself, it needs a sufficiently large territory.

Hitler called Russia the main object of the future German colonization: "We, the National Socialists, quite consciously put an end to the entire German foreign policy of the pre-war period. We want to return to the point where our old development stopped 600 years ago. We want to put a stop to the eternal German drive to the south and west of Europe and turn our gaze towards the territories located in the east. We are finally breaking with the colonial and commercial policy of the pre-war period and consciously passing over to the policy of conquering new lands in Europe.

When we speak of the conquest of new lands in Europe, we can, of course, have in mind in the first place only Russia and those border states that are subordinate to her.

Fate itself points to us with a finger. Having given Russia into the hands of Bolshevism, fate deprived the Russian people of that

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the intelligentsia, on which its state existence has hitherto been supported and which alone has served as a guarantee of a certain stability of the state. It was not the state gifts of the Slavs that gave strength and strength to the Russian state. Russia was indebted for all this to the German elements—a most excellent example of the enormous state role which the German elements are capable of playing within an inferior race. This is how many powerful states on earth were created. More than once in history we have seen how peoples of a lower culture, headed by the Germans as organizers, turned into powerful states and then stood firmly on their feet as long as the racial core of the Germans remained.

For centuries, Russia lived precisely at the expense of the German core in its upper strata of the population. Now this nucleus has been completely and completely exterminated. The place of the Germans was taken by the Jews. But just as the Russians cannot throw off the yoke of the Jews on their own, so the Jews alone are not able to keep this vast state under their control for a long time. The Jews themselves are by no means an element of organization, but rather an enzyme of disorganization. This gigantic eastern state is inevitably doomed to destruction. All the prerequisites are already ripe for this. The end of Jewish domination in Russia will also be the end of Russia as a state. Fate has destined us to be witnesses of such a catastrophe, which, better than anything else, will confirm the unconditional correctness of our racial theory.

The racial theory served as a rationale for the need for "living space" for the "chosen people" and thus underlay all external

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policies of the Third Reich. But at the same time she played a dual role. On the one hand, it was a powerful propaganda stimulus for the Germans to overcome all the hardships of preparing for the war, and then the war itself for the sake of gaining what was destined for the German people by fate itself, God and Providence. But, on the other hand, concern for the purity of blood, the absence of harmful "racial impurities" in this or that people, objectively reduced the number of Germany's allies in Europe. It is no coincidence that when the situation of the Reich became critical in 1943, the terms "subhuman" and "superhuman" were removed from circulation, and all peoples in the occupied territories, except for Jews, began to be considered Aryan.

Attempts to implement a racial policy in the occupied territories only complicated both their management and relations with the local population. For example, on April 5, 1942, Himmler at Hitler's headquarters stated that "the best way to solve the French problem is to annually select people of German blood among the population of France. It is necessary to try to place their children at a very early age in German boarding schools, to make them forget that by chance they were considered French, suggesting that German blood flows in them, and emphasizing their belonging to the great German people.

Hitler, however, was very cautious about the idea of Germanizing the French, noting: "All attempts

Germanizations do not particularly inspire me, unless they are backed up by worldview. In the case of France, it should be remembered that its military glory is based not on the ideological position of the majority of the population, but on the fact that the French skillfully used a couple of times favorable for

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them the ratio of military forces on the continent (for example, having entered the Thirty Years' War). But where they were opposed by the Germans, endowed with national self-consciousness, they always received a good thrashing, for example, from Frederick the Great, in 1940, etc. And it does not matter that the Corsican Napoleon, this unique military genius, led France to victories of world-historic significance. Most of the French are philistine-minded, and therefore it will be a heavy blow for France if her ruling stratum is deprived of replenishment with persons of German blood.

The Fuhrer denied the possibility of "Germanizing" the Poles by introducing the German language into the Polish lands: "The Polish people would remain the Polish people, only expressing their own ideas alien to us in a foreign language. Such a people, alien to our race, by its lower stage of development would only compromise the dignity and height of development of our own people. The racial doctrine against the Nazis doomed the Poles either to extermination or to deportation. Only those Poles were subject to "Germanization" whom the Nazi anthropologists considered to be close to the Germanic race.

The deportations of the Poles to clear the "living space" from "foreign elements" began in the very first days of the occupation by the Wehrmacht. As early as October 20, 1939, the head of the 16th operational command of the SD, SS Sturmbannfuehrer Franz Raeder, reported to the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA): "By the will of the Fuhrer, German West Prussia should emerge from Pomerania populated by Poles as soon as possible. For the implementation of these tasks, in the agreed opinion of all competent authorities, the following measures are necessary:

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1. The physical liquidation of all Polish elements which: a) have played a leading role on the Polish side in the past or 6) may become involved in the future

nicknames of the Polish resistance.

2. Deportation or resettlement of all "native Poles" and "congressors" (settlers from the Kingdom of Poland) from West Prussia.

5. The resettlement of Poles valuable in racial and other respects to the center of the old Reich, since we are talking about the fading German lineage, and the inclusion in the German national body should occur without hindrance. These measures were carried out from the first day.

The imperial protector of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich, speaking to the officials of the occupation administration in February 1942, stated that from 40 to 60 percent of the Czechs should merge with the Germans into a single people, and the Czechs who are not subject to Germanization should go to develop the "living space" in the East. For the same purpose, it was supposed to use a part of the Dutch that was not quite complete in racial terms. Both those and other representatives of the "German peoples" were supposed to be made "taskers" over the local east.

non-Slavic population.

From the "racially inferior" peoples in the future, Hitler was going to train servants for the Germans. In May 1940, SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler drew up a memorandum "On the treatment of foreigners in the East" (meaning the Polish General Government of Warsaw). There, in particular, it was stated: "For the non-Germanic population of the East, there should not be education for more than a four-year folk school. There they should teach only a simple count up to five hundred, the spelling of one's name and the fact that the Lord Bogtre

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will obey the Germans and be honest, diligent and decent. The ability to read, I think, is superfluous for them. There should be no other schools in the East at all.. And Hitler in March 1942 stated in his Headquarters: "First of all, we should not send German teachers to the eastern territories (meaning both Poland and the occupied Soviet territories. — B.S.). Otherwise, we will lose both children and parents. We will lose the whole people, because the knowledge hammered into their heads will go to waste. It would be best if these people learned there only sign language to communicate with the Germans. On the radio, it would be most useful to transmit music in unlimited quantities. Only they should not be accustomed to cultivating work. To prevent any publications... These people will feel the happiest if they are left as far as possible in peace. Otherwise, we are

we raise our worst enemies there! But, of course, if we act in the interests of our teachers, then the first thing to do would be to open a university in Kyiv."

Similar in practice. the programs were unrealizable utopias, the implementation of which could theoretically begin only after the end of the war and the acquisition of world domination by Germany. In reality, both in Poland and in the occupied Soviet territories, newspapers were still published, and in schools they were taught not only to sign and count to five hundred, although, of course, they did not open universities.

Reality also corrected the purely anthropological dogmas of racial theory. So, on June 2, 1942, summing up the impressions of the trip to Poltava, to the headquarters of Army Group South, in Headquarters, Hitler admitted that he had visited

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The idea of Ukraine "made me somewhat reconsider my previous racial views. In Poltava I saw so many blue-eyed and blond-haired women that I even thought - remembering the photographs of Norwegians or even Dutch women presented along with requests for marriage - should we not, instead of talking about the problem of the "spread of the northern type", raise the question of the need to "spread the southern type" in our northern European states".

However, the Fuhrer allowed such "liberalism" only in private conversations. The racial doctrine of National Socialism left no place on earth for "small peoples" deprived of their homeland-soil - Jews and Gypsies, subject to total extermination. Next on the scale of harmfulness went the Poles - the "hereditary enemies" of the Germans, whose numbers had to be limited as much as possible, and statehood should be liquidated, not allowing any forms of self-government. However, the Nazis did not foresee the total extermination of the Polish nation.

Next after the Poles on the scale of racial preference were the Russians and Belorussians, the same as the Poles, "subhuman", Ogyerteinswe, but at least enjoyed an advantage over the Poles when appointed to posts in local self-government in the occupied territories. After Belarussians and Russians, Lithuanians and Ukrainians occupied the higher rung of the "racial pyramid".



The Lithuanians, who until quite recently had their own state, had an advantage in the form of self-government, like the other two Baltic peoples, the Letts and the Estonians. However, due to the long existence in one territory and the supposed "racial mixing" with the Poles by the Nazis, no

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Lithuanians and Ukrainians were not considered "Aryan peoples".

The next on the scale were the "Aryan peoples" proper. Only Estonians, Latvians, Cossacks, Tatars of the Crimea and the Volga region, Kalmyks, Ossetians, Ingush, Chechens and a number of other peoples of the North Caucasus and Transcaucasia received this honor from the population of the USSR. In the future, they were subject to Germanization and were to form a single community with the German people.

Outside the USSR, the "Aryan peoples" included the French, Italians, Spaniards, Portuguese, Hungarians, Greeks, Romanians, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Serbs, Slovenes, Turks and some others. At the same time, Italians, Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks, Croats and Bulgarians were considered special, "allied peoples", which increased their status from the point of view of racial theory.

Further, closer to the top of the racial pyramid, followed the "Germanic peoples": Danes, Norwegians, Dutch, Flemings, Walloons, Luxembourgers, Czechs, English, Irish, Swedes, Finns. They were supposed to be used primarily for the colonization of the "eastern territories".

The difference between the peoples was well manifested in the construction of the SS troops. Representatives of the German peoples, along with the Germans themselves, served in the elite SS divisions, tank and motorized (they were also called "German"). For example, such a well-known and famous division during the war as the SS Panzer Division "Viking" was recruited to a large extent from Norwegians, Danes and Dutch. And the Walloons formed the "Wallonia" brigade, later deployed into a division. On the contrary, representatives of the Aryan peoples - Latvians, Estonians

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tsy, French, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Hungarians, Croats, etc. - formed only SS infantry divisions

(they were called "volunteer"), inferior in terms of equipment with weapons and military equipment to the elite "German" divisions.

In 1943, when the defeat of Germany was already obvious to the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, the racial policy of the National Socialists underwent forced changes. The term "subhuman" was withdrawn from use, and Ukrainians, Belarusians, Lithuanians, Russians and even Poles were now officially recognized as "Aryan peoples" and were accepted into the service of the Wehrmacht and the SS. Goebbels officially stated about these "Eastern peoples": "You cannot portray these people hoping to win liberation with our hands, animals, barbarians and the like, and at the same time expect that they will passionately desire the victory of the Germans."

By that time, racial theory had already lost all meaning both from the point of view of propaganda and from the point of view of practical politics. Germany suffered defeats on all fronts, and not only from the "German peoples", the British and Americans, which seemed to be not so offensive, but also from the Russians, who only yesterday were called "subhuman". In the last two years of its existence, the racial doctrine has ceased to be any effective political weapon and has become an anachronism.

## Antisemitism and the Holocaust

The racial doctrine of the National Socialists logically followed the "final solution of the Jewish question", in other words, the complete extermination

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Jews of Europe. Hitler believed that the Jews were destructive to the German race and ousted Germans from the most prestigious professions. The descendants of mixed marriages of Jews and Germans, according to Hitler, were especially dangerous for the destruction of the "German spirit", so the sexual relationship of Germans with Jews was declared a crime soon after the Nazis came to power. For example, speaking on September 15, 1937 in Nuremberg at the Imperial Labor Party Congress, Hitler attacked the Jews as the main culprits of everything bad that is happening in the world. Here is how this speech was remembered by Hitler's Luftwaffe adjutant Nikolaus von Below:

warned about the "general offensive of Jewish Bolshevism against the current social system and against all our spiritual and cultural values." This, he declared, had not happened in the whole world since the advent of Christianity, the triumphant march of Islam or the era of the Reformation. "In today's Soviet Russia, Jews occupy 80% of all leading positions," Hitler claimed. Pointing to the "Red Revolution" in Spain, against which Franco took up arms, he implored the "big family of European peoples" to realize "the immensity of the worldwide danger of Bolshevism."

In Mein Struggle, Hitler stated: "One must see this low Jewish manner as soon as, with a wave of a magic wand, they begin to pour mud from hundreds and thousands of buckets on a local person; there is no slander that would not fall on the head of such an innocent victim; it is necessary to become more familiar with this method of attacking the political honor of the enemy in order to make sure that

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how dangerous these scoundrels of the press are. For these robbers of the press, there is nothing that would not be suitable as a means for their dirty goal. Here he recalled: "The father of the Jews finally repelled me when I became acquainted not only with the physical untidiness, but also with the moral filth of this chosen people ...

Is there at least one unclean deed in the world, at least one shamelessness of any kind, and above all in the field of the cultural life of peoples, in which at least one Jew has not been implicated? Just as you find a worm or its larva in any abscess, so in any dirty story you will certainly not bump into a Jew.

When I got acquainted with the activities of the Jews in the press, in art, in literature, in the theater, this inevitably had to strengthen my negative attitude towards the Kevreyam...

This is a plague, a plague, a real spiritual plague, worse than the black death that once frightened the people. And in what countless quantities this poison was produced and distributed! ..

Approving theater reviews have always applied only to Jewish authors. Sharp criticism never fell on anyone other than the Germans. Injections against Wilhelm P become

were systemized in the same way as a special emphasis on French culture and civilization. The piquancy of a literary novel was raised to the level of simple obscenity. Even in their German language there was something alien...

The attitude of the Jews towards prostitution and still more towards the traffic in girls can be observed in Vienna better than anywhere else in Western Europe, with the exception of

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niem, perhaps, some parts in the south of France. It was enough to go out into the streets at night in order to come across at every step in some quarters of Vienna disgusting scenes that were completely unknown to the majority of the German people right up to the World War itself, when part of our German soldiers on the Eastern Front had the opportunity, or, more precisely, was forced to get to know such a sight...

What was completely incomprehensible was the boundless hatred with which they treat their own nationality, the greatness of their people, the hatred with which they dishonor the history of their own country and dump the names of its great figures in the mud.

This struggle against one's own country, one's own nest, one's own hearth is senseless and incomprehensible. It's just unnatural.

From this defect they could be cured sometimes for several days, at most for several weeks. Soon, when meeting those who seemed cured to you, you had to make sure that he remained the same, that he was again in the power of the unnatural."

Hitler proclaimed: "No reconciliation with the Jews is possible. With them, only a conversation is possible on the principle: either — or! Either - they, or - We

Since it cannot be cured, it must be destroyed. And they destroyed them, bringing them, so to speak, into a "natural state".

In the same place, Hitler emphasized: "Sins against blood and race are the most terrible sins in this world. A nation that indulges in these sins is doomed."

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The state, according to Hitler, should become a means of "preserving and further developing a collective of human beings identical in physical and moral respects."

Mixing of races weakens the state and leads it to destruction. According to Hitler, "Races living side by side, but not completely mixed with each other, and the remnants of races, do not know how to properly unite against a common enemy. This property is connected with what we call super-individualism. In times of peace, this property can sometimes still be useful, but if we take the era as a whole, we have to state that because of this ultra-individualism, we have lost the opportunity to win world DOMINATION.

In Mein Struggle, Hitler wrote: "If during the war we had gassed 12 or 15 thousand Jews who were corrupters of the people ... then this would probably have saved the lives of millions of people, immeasurably much more valuable for the future of Germany." Probably from this phrase comes the widespread idea of gas chambers, allegedly widely used in Auschwitz and other death camps.

As early as January 20, 1939, Hitler ominously warned: "If the international Jewish financial circles in Europe and beyond succeed in drawing the peoples back into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the world and, consequently, the triumph of Jewry, but the destruction of the Jewish race in Europe". |

As early as May 1942 in Karlsruhe, the head of the German Labor Front, Robert Ley, declared: "It is necessary not only to isolate the Jewish enemy from humanity - the Jews must be exterminated."

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As noted, even before the Holocaust, one of the first historians of National Socialism, Konrad Heyden, "according to the program of National Socialism and the speeches and writings of Hitler ... the Jews, in atonement for the evil they inflicted on the German people, must be

utterly banished from political life, as well as largely removed from their government positions and from business.

By the way, a copy of the translation of Heiden's book "History of National Socialism" was kept in the Stalinist library. Iosif Vissarionovich emphasized in the text the words of Hitler, spoken in 1922: "In the right camp, the Jews try to express all the shortcomings so sharply in order to tease a man from the people as much as possible; they cultivate a thirst for money, cynicism, hardness of heart, disgusting snobbery. More and more Jews are making their way into better families, with the result that the leading stratum of the nation has become essentially alien to its own people. It is felt that the General Secretary loved the "small people" no more than the Fuhrer, although he saved the "final decision" "for later".

Until the beginning of World War II, Jews were going to be deported from Germany outside of Europe - to Madagascar, to Palestine, and some other places. With the outbreak of the war, and especially after the fall on the Soviet Union and the occupation of vast territories in the East, the decision was made to exterminate all Jews within the sphere of German domination. Earlier, even after the adoption of the anti-Jewish Nuremberg laws in 1935 (they are given in the appendix), Jews could still exist in the Reich, find work for themselves, preserve their private lives and some property. By

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Therefore, many Jews were in no hurry to emigrate, and not a single country was eager to accept tens and hundreds of thousands of refugees at once. After the outbreak of the Second World War, Jews practically ceased to be issued permission to travel outside the Reich. Lo vushka slammed shut.

On April 2, 1941, on the eve of the campaign against Russia, Hitler summoned the future Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, Alfred Rosenberg, and informed him of plans to "finally solve" the Jewish question by the complete extermination of the Jews of Europe. The occupied territories of Poland and the USSR were given a special role in this matter. Here, away from the eyes of the public, they were going to deport the Jews of Western Europe. The inhabitants of Germany and the countries of Western Europe thought that the Jews were sent to establish new settlements in the East. But no traces of such settlements were found. The unfortunate were placed in ghettos and concentration camps, where they could only wait for their death.

After a two-hour conversation, horrified by Hitler's plans, Rosenberg could only write in his diary: "Today I cannot write about it, but I will never forget it." And on May 20, 1941, the PU V4 SD department Adolf Eichmann received instructions that "the final solution of the Jewish question will soon come," in connection with which all police units were instructed to prevent the emigration of Jews from the Reich and the occupied territories of Western Europe. Subsequently, Jews from Germany, Poland and Western European countries were deported to the occupied Soviet territory. In total, according to some estimates, almost 2 million Jews died here.

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One of the most common myths associated with the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" is that the leaders of the Third Reich did not know about it. Toli Himmler and Eichmann committed the Holocaust without the knowledge of Hitler, or, on the contrary, Hitler was well aware of everything, but the second person in the Reich, Goering, knew nothing about these horrors and had nothing to do with the "final solution". In any case, this is how the Reichsmarschall conducted his defense at the Nuremberg trials. Also, 81-year-old, who died on February 10, 2002, the Fuhrer's secretary, Tra udl Junge, wrote down Hitler's last will, which he wrote in 1945 in his bunker before his suicide, under Hitler's dictation. According to Junge, in all three years of service with the Führer, she never once heard him discuss the Jewish question. Employees of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, engaged in the search for Nazis involved in the Holocaust, were skeptical about such a statement. Junge said that only after learning about the Holocaust after the war did she feel guilty for treating Hitler well. But millions of Germans really did not know that the Jews were not only evicted from German cities, but also physically destroyed. And the fault of the Germans is not that they did not know about the Holocaust, but that they chose and supported Hitler, who sought to build the happiness of the German people on the bones of other peoples, especially the Jewish one.

There is one document that puts everything in its place. This is the minutes of the meeting dated July 16, 1941. It was attended by Hitler, Goering, Bormann, Keitel, Reichsleiter and Reich Minister Rosenberg, and Reich Minister Lammers, head of the Reich Chancellery. At the meeting, the Fuhrer declared: "We must not disclose

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our goals to the world ... The main thing is that we ourselves know what we want. In no case should we complicate our path with unnecessary declarations. Such statements are superfluous, because we can do everything in our power, and we still cannot do what is not in our power ... security measures. In the interests of the population, we were forced to take care of peace, food, means of communication, etc. n. This is where our regulation comes from. Thus, it should not be revealed that we are talking about a final settlement (of the Jewish question. - B.S.). All the necessary measures - executions, eviction, etc. - we, despite this, are implementing and can implement.

We, however, do not at all wish to turn anyone temporarily into our enemies. So for now, we will act as if. we would intend to carry out the mandate (occupation forces. - B.S.). But at the same time, we ourselves must be absolutely clear that we will never leave these areas.

Based on this, we are talking about the following:

Build nothing for the final settlement, BUT SLOWLY PREPARE EVERYTHING FOR IT.

We emphasize that we bring freedom."

In pursuance of these decisions, Goering already on July 51, 1941, gave the order to the chief of the RSHA, Heydrich: "In addition to the task assigned to you on January 24, 1959 to solve the Jewish question by emigration or eviction caused by the demand of the time, I instruct you to carry out the necessary organizational , technical and material preparation for a general solution (Sezatio55n?) of the Jewish question on the territory of Europe, which is

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in the sphere of German influence. In cases where this falls within the competence of other central authorities, they should be encouraged to cooperate. In addition, I instruct you to submit to me in the near future a complete plan of preliminary organizational, technical and material measures for the implementation of the final solution (En6\$un?) of the Jewish question.

To disguise the "final solution" in "Im-



The Persian Legislative Gazette published a police order dated September 1, 1941. All Jews were ordered to wear on their clothes a yellow six-pointed star visible from afar. This problem was subject to a fundamental solution only after the end of the campaign against Russia, and, as emphasized in the order, "in a magnanimous manner".

As such a competent witness as Colonel Nikolaus von Below, Hitler's former adjutant from the Luftwaffe, rightly states, "I am firmly convinced, even without documentary evidence, that the extermination of the Jews was carried out on the categorical instructions of Hitler, for it is unthinkable to assume that Goering and Himmler would have done something similar without his knowledge. Of course, Himmler did not inform the Führer of every detail, but in this matter he acted with his approval and in full agreement with him. Ribbentrop, in his memoirs, timidly suggested that Himmler carried out the "Final Solution" without Hitler's knowledge, since the Führer only once spoke in his presence about mass executions of Jews. But, firstly, Ribbentrop had no direct relation to the "final decision", providing only its diplomatic cover. So he knew the details not only

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it is not necessary, but even harmful - he could not lie so convincingly to representatives of neutral countries. Well, and secondly, to imagine that the Minister of Internal Affairs can destroy millions of people without the knowledge of the head of government, who has the rights of an absolute dictator, is unlikely to be able to be a person of sound mind and solid memory. In the same way, in the USSR, mass repressions were attributed to Yagoda, Yezhov and Beria, while trying to whitewash Stalin.

Von Below also writes that "it was horrific to note how Hitler's anti-Semitism grew more and more rampant as the fighting in Russia continued. In conversations with Himmler and Goebbels, he left no doubt that everything that was done to the Jews did not bother him at all. This evidence alone proves that the Führer was fully aware of what the "Final Solution" was.

The decision to start implementing the "Final Solution" was adopted at the infamous meeting in Wannsee on January 20, 1942. It was attended not by the first persons of the state, but

only high-ranking officials of a number of ministries and departments, including Gestapo chief Heinrich Müller and the head of the "Jewish" subdivision of the SD, Adolf Eichmann. Those who had at least half of Jewish blood were equated with Jews and were subject to "evacuation">. Even someone who had only one of his grandfathers or one of his grandmothers Jewish was subject to "evacuation" if he was especially unfavorable in racial terms, i.e., outwardly very reminiscent of a Jew. At the meeting it was noted that in Europe, after about 557,000 Jews emigrated from the Reich and the annexed territories from January 30, 1933 to October 31, 1941, about 11 million Jews remained in

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including in Germany within the borders of 1937 - 131,800, in Austria - 43,700, in the Polish lands annexed to Germany - 420,000, in the general government - 2,284,000, in the Bialystok district - 400,000, in the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia - 74,200; in Latvia - 5,500; in Lithuania - 34,000; in Belgium - 425,000; in Denmark - 5,600; 600, Holland 160,800, Norway 1,200, Bulgaria 48,000, England 330,000, Finland 2,500, Ireland 4,000, Italy 58,000, Croatia 40,000, Albania - 200, in Portugal - 5000, in Romania, including Bessarabia - 342,000, in Sweden - 8000, in Switzerland - 18,000, in Serbia - 10,000, in Slovakia - 88,000, in Spain - 6000, in the European part Turkey - 55,500; composition of the Jews of the USSR are not included. With this in mind, the total number of Jews in Europe, if we sum up all the above figures, should be about 11 million 284 thousand. In addition, according to the participants in the meeting, about 5 million more Jews lived in the Asian part of the USSR. It is a difficult question how accurate the figures presented by the participants of the meeting were. It can be assumed that they are rather overestimated than underestimated. First, the executors of the "final solution" were keen to emphasize the scale and difficulty of the task before them. Secondly, there could be a double count here, when the Jews who emigrated from Germany after 1933, and from Austria after 1938, could later count

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also among the Jews of France and Czechoslovakia, being at the  
same time counted as German and Austrian Jews.

In many countries, statistics made it possible to single out as  
"Jews" only persons professing Judaism. At the same time, many  
Jews there converted to Christianity or became atheists (in Poland  
there were probably hundreds of thousands, and in Germany tens  
of thousands), but according to the Nazi racial theory, they were also  
subject to extermination, as well as persons who had only half Jewish  
blood. The latter, for the most part, did not fall into Soviet statistics,  
which defined Jews by nationality (ethnic identification), and not  
by religion. I repeat, it is difficult to assess the accuracy of these  
figures; this would require a separate study, much larger than our  
book. One can only assume that these figures are rather  
overstated than underestimated. Officials had to give an idea to  
their superiors how difficult the task was before them, how numerous  
were the enemies of the human race. However, it is unlikely  
that the given number of Jews is overestimated by more than half a  
million people.

Now we face the most difficult, painful and politically important  
question: how many Jews died in the Holocaust. To begin with, it is  
necessary to exclude from the total number the Jews of those countries  
that the Nazis could not reach. These are England, Ireland, Finland,  
Sweden, Bulgaria, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain and Turkey. In total,  
this gives approximately 475 thousand people. So no more than  
10,809,000 Jews could become the real prey of the Nazis. About a  
million more tips must be subtracted from this number.

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Russian Jews living in the unoccupied territory. About 9.8  
million people remain.

The Germans did not keep any systematic statistics on the  
number of victims of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question". This  
is clearly evidenced by the materials of the Eichmann trial, which I cite  
as an appendix to the book. The famous figure of 6 million victims of  
the Holocaust appeared as a result of Eichmann's report to Himmler,  
compiled in August (according to

according to his data - in October) 1944. According to this report, the text of which has never been found, about 4 million Jews were killed in the death camps, mainly in Poland, and about 2 million more died from other causes, mainly from the actions of the Einsatzkommandos in the occupied Soviet territory. Moreover, Eichmann himself admitted that he wanted to please Himmler, who was going to report to Hitler on the course of the "final decision". Himmler asked Eichmann - how many of these bastards did we strangle? The Reichsführer wanted at least 6 million Jews to be exterminated—more than half of the total European Jewry—more precisely, the number that was determined at the Wannsee meeting. At that moment, the war was moving inexorably and quickly to a fatal end for Germany. Both Himmler and Eichmann should have warmed their souls with the knowledge that they had destroyed more than half of the pernicious "small people", at least in Europe. With this thought, the Reichsführer found it sweeter to die when, on May 26, 1945, arrested by the British military authorities, he bit through an ampoule of potassium cyanide. Here is the Obersturmbannführer and according to the Reichsführer's trial. This figure - 6 million - quite suited both the executioners and the victims. The latter because it proved how terrible the Holocaust was, which destroyed

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over half of the Jews. Therefore, a serious study of the extent to which this figure corresponds to reality has not yet been undertaken.

Meanwhile, the fact that the figures cited by Eichmann are very round immediately suggests that they are taken, if not completely from the ceiling, then simply by eye. Eichmann calculated and decided that two-thirds of the Jews were destroyed in concentration camps in Poland, and another third - Einsatzkommandos in the occupied Soviet territory. Exactly how many Jews were exterminated and where, in fact, no one counted exactly.

Here I can give only a few of the most general considerations on how this problem should be solved, which, obviously, the next generations of historians and demographers will be closely involved in. Firstly, if the activities of the Einsatzkommandos that exterminated Jews on Soviet territory were even more or less fully documented by regular reports (although there is still no complete summary of them), then the number of Jews killed in the death camps has been preserved only scattered information. Under these conditions, it remains

the only very approximate method of estimating the number of victims of the Holocaust is demographic. We must try to determine how many Jews were approximately in Europe by the middle of 1941, when in fact began, with the massacres of Jews in the occupied Soviet territories, the implementation of the "Final Solution", and then calculate how many of them were left alive by the middle 1945. There is only fragmentary information about this. For example, out of 68,000 members of the Jewish community in Krakow, only a few hundred people survived the war. This indicates that Himmler's directive was carried out quite scrupulously.

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On July 19, 1942, the Reichsfuehrer SS ordered that Poland be cleansed of Jews by the end of the year: "These measures should be carried out in the spirit of creating a new order in Europe with the aim of the necessary ethnic division of races and peoples, ensuring the safety and purity of the German Reich, as well as areas his interests." All subsequent ethnic cleansings in the world are justified in the same way, although none of them, fortunately, surpassed in their scale the "final solution of the Jewish question" initiated by the Nazis.

In all calculations it is necessary to take into account the change in frontiers that took place in 1938-1945, and to determine exactly in which frontiers the estimates are given for one country or another. Since most of these censuses refer to the periods, on the one hand, before 1941, and on the other hand, later than 1945, one must also take into account Jewish emigration to Palestine. From 1919 to May 1948, it amounted to 450 thousand people, including 577 thousand people from Europe. At the same time, one must clearly realize that the number of Jewish victims during the Second World War, generally speaking, is not equal to the number of victims of the Holocaust. A large part of the Jews died a natural death during the war years. In the same way, they would have died during this period even if there had been no war and genocide. Also, Jews who died in the ranks of the fighting armies, including those who died on the side of Hitler in the armies of Hungary and Finland, cannot be attributed to the victims of the Holocaust (for example, Jewish services were even held in the Finnish army for Jewish servicemen). So, for example, according to some estimates, from 120 to 180 thousand Jews died in the ranks of the Red Army, and about 80 thousand more died in

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German captivity. If the former are certainly not victims of the Holocaust, then the latter should partly be included in this category, namely those who were shot as Jews in captivity. However, there is no doubt that some of the captured Jews died simply from harsh conditions of detention, were killed while trying to escape, or for other reasons not related to their racial origin, like millions of prisoners of war of other nationalities. But the Jews fought not only in the Red Army, but also in the armies of the United States, England, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Finland, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. At the same time, it must be emphasized that only Jews from the British and American armies, who were at the very least protected due to the fact that German prisoners of war were also in the hands of the British and Americans, really had serious chances to survive in captivity. Jews from the Soviet, Polish or French armies could only survive if they managed to hide their nationality, since in the framework of the "final solution" Jewish prisoners of war were subject to total extermination.

In the same way, Jewish civilians who died of starvation and disease, and not as a result of direct repression, are by no means always victims of the "final solution". If people died in the occupied territories, then in most cases this can be equated with the Holocaust, since especially difficult living conditions were deliberately created in the ghetto and they were very poorly supplied with food. However, those Jews who died from wartime hardships (this

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characterized by the concept of "excess mortality" - in comparison with the indicator of peacetime) in the Soviet rear, of course, by victims of the cold bones are not.

There is another specific group of Jewish victims in World War II. These were persons deported among other territories occupied by the Red Army in 1939-1941, i.e. from Western Ukraine, Western Belorussia, Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and the Baltic states as representatives of the "exploiting classes" and "politically unreliable elements". The most striking example here is the prominent figures of the Bund, Henrik Ehrlich and Viktor Alter,

arrested by the NKVD, respectively, in Brest and Kove in the autumn of the 39th. The first committed suicide in the Lubyanka prison in May 1941, and the second was shot on Stalin's orders in February 1943. A certain number of Jews were shot among the Polish officers in the spring of 1940. But even more deported Jews died in the Gulag during the most severe military winter of 1941/42, when the prisoners were hardly fed. In this case, the number of victims could be in the tens of thousands.

In addition, a significant number of Jews fell victim to the anti-Semitism that was widespread in the Soviet partisan detachments. For example, on September 24, 1943, the commander of the partisan detachment named after Lavrenty Beria, Hero of the Soviet Union Kirill Orlovsky told the commission on the history of the Patriotic War of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus: "I organized the detachment named after Kirov exclusively from Jews who had fled from the Nazi execution. I knew that I was facing incredible difficulties, but I was not afraid of these difficulties, I went for it only because everyone around

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us partisan detachments and partisan formations of the Baranovichi and Pinsk regions refused these people. There were cases of killing them. For example, the anti-Semitic "partisans" of the Tsygankov detachment killed 11 Jews, the peasants of the village of Radzhalovich, Pinsk Region, killed 17 Jews, the "partisans" of the Tsygankov detachment. Shchors was killed by 7 Jews.

The partisans also held to the theory that the Gestapo sent their Jewish agents to them so that they would definitely not be suspected of espionage. The authors of such theories did not even think that the Germans would never send to their enemies those for whom the most terrible punishment would be the return to the German rear. Such imaginary agents were regularly caught, according to the documents cited in the appendix, forced to confess by torture and then shot. Probably thousands, if not tens of thousands of Jews became victims of anti-German partisans (not only Soviet, but also Ukrainian and Polish).

In general, it must be admitted that both in Poland and in the occupied territory of the USSR, a significant part of the population enthusiastically participated in the "final solution of the Jewish question." For example, the head of the Soviet underground in Mogilev, Kazimir Matte, admitted: "In the first months of the occupation of German

tsy physically destroyed all the Jews. This fact has given rise to many different arguments. The most reactionary part of the population, comparatively small, fully justified this atrocity and assisted them in it. The main philistine part did not agree with such a cruel reprisal, but argued that the Jews themselves are to blame for the fact that everyone hates them, but it would be enough to restrict them economically and politically, and shoot only some

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ryh, who held positions of responsibility. The rest of the population - Soviet-minded - sympathized and helped the Jews in many ways, but was very indignant at the passivity of the Jews, since they gave themselves to the slaughter without making a single, even spontaneous attempt to act against the Germans in the city or mass departure to the partisans. In addition, pro-Soviet-minded people noted that many Jews before the war tried to get more profitable and good official positions (as if Russians or Belarusians did not aspire to anyone themselves! - B.S.), established mutual responsibility between themselves, often allowed a tactless attitude towards the Russians, intimidating them with prosecution for the slightest speech against a Jew, etc. "And now the Jews also expect help from Russian Ivanov, but they themselves do nothing," they said. The general conclusion of the population turned out to be this: no matter how the Metz would not pay off with everyone the way they did with the Jews. This made many think about it, introduced distrust towards the Germans. Similar anti-Jewish sentiments prevailed among a significant part of the population of Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic states, which were previously part of the notorious "Pale of Settlement" in the Russian Empire, to the east of which Jews were forbidden to settle. This facilitated the implementation of the "Final Solution". Sometimes the locals killed the Jews themselves, and the Germans only watched it. For example, in the town of Jedwabna near Bialystok, on July 10, 1941, shortly after its occupation by the Germans, local Polish residents in the first days of the German occupation destroyed with particular cruelty (stoned, stuck or burned alive), according to various estimates, from 600 to 1600 Jews, indignantly rejecting the offer of the Germans to leave them alive.

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the first artisans necessary for the needs of the Wehrmacht: "Well, we won't find Polish artisans for you, or what? It is believed that the repressions of the Soviet NKVD, among whose employees there were many Jews. The world learned about this crime from the book *Neighbors: The Story of the Destruction of a Jewish Town by the Polish* historian Jan Tomasz Gross, published in 2000. For the Polish public, this came as a shock and provoked an official apology from the Polish government for the crimes of the Poles against the Jews. Similar arbitrary massacres also took place in Lithuania, Latvia and Western Ukraine, but in terms of scale they could not be compared with the mass executions organized by the Einsatzgruppen. In all countries there were people who risked their lives to hide Jews, and people who enthusiastically handed them over for execution.

It is difficult to say how much the traditional number of 6 million dead will decrease, taking into account all the above amendments (and that it will decrease most likely). At the same time, such a scrupulous calculation will cut the ground from under the feet of revisionist historians who speculate on the obvious inaccuracy and incorrectness of deriving the existing figures. I think that in any case, the number of victims of the Holocaust will be several million people, and the accuracy of determining the final figure will be small - plus or minus a million or two. The claims of revisionist historians who insist that no more than 30,000 Jews were executed directly in the course of the "Final Solution" and that more than a million more died from starvation, disease, and other wartime hardships are grossly understated. Even in individual Einsatzgruppen reports on the number of casualties

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In the 1990s, there are figures for many Jews that are significantly higher than 30,000 killed. For example, on December 1, 1941, the operations team of the 35th Operational Group A, operating on the territory of Lithuania, reported the destruction of 99,804 people from July 2 to November 30, of which 99,067 were Jews. Of the remaining 717 were classified as "communists", and 15 as terrorists, 1 was called "Russian political leader", and another 35 were designated only by nationality - Russian, Pole and Lithuanian. In addition, one German from the Reich, who had previously converted to Judaism, was executed. It should be noted that among the exterminated were not only the Jews of Lithuania, but also the unfortunate deported to Lithuania from Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt am Main, Breslau and Vienna. Those on-

35994 people were counted.

But Gerhard Erren, Gebitskommissar of the Slonim region, proudly reported on January 25, 1942: "When I arrived in the Slonim region, it numbered about 25 thousand Jews, of which about 16 thousand were in the city of Slonim alone - more than two-thirds of the total population. The organization of the ghetto was impossible, since there was neither barbed wire nor sufficient guards. Therefore, I began to prepare in advance for a big action. First, furniture was confiscated from the Jews for the German institutions and quartering of the Wehrmacht... The action carried out by SD.11.13 freed me from useless eaters; about 7 thousand Jews remaining in Slonim are included in the production process, work diligently for fear of death, and in the spring will also be sorted for reduction. The countryside was thoroughly cleared by the Wehrmacht, unfortunately only in settlements with no more than 1,000 inhabitants. In district centers after

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restoration work to establish movement along the West-East line, Jewry will be reduced to the required number of artisans and workers. Incidentally, this evidence proves that units of the Wehrmacht also took part in the "final decision" to the best of their ability. Incidentally, the General Commissar of Belarus, Wilhelm Kube, in a report to the Reichskommissar of Ostland, Heinrich Lohse, dated July 51, 1942, which reported on the extermination of 55,000 Jews in Belarus, even complained that the Wehrmacht was too zealous in the "final solution", beating bread from the punitive organs and violating plans for the action: "The command of the army rear zone, having exceeded its authority, intervened in our preparations for the liquidation of the Jews in Glubokoye. Without agreement with me, it liquidated 10,000 Jews, the systematic elimination of which, of course, was also planned by us." So in the Holocaust there was sometimes something like a socialist competition between the DuSSi army.

In the report of Operational Group D on the execution of Jews in the Crimea, it was noted that a total of 75,881 people were shot. Including, in the period from November 16 to December 15, 17,645 Jews, 2,504 Crimean chaks (representatives of the Turkic people professing Judaism), 824 gypsies, 212 communists and partisans were shot. Here, excluding the Krymchaks, the proportion of Jews among those shot rises to 85%, and together with the Crimean

chakami exceeds 95%.

There is also evidence of the use by the Germans of gas-fired vehicles - gas chambers for the liquidation of Jews. For example, on June 15, 1942, the head of the security police and the SD in Ostland reported to Berlin with concern: "At the disposal of the command

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The director of the security police and SD in Belorussia receives a weekly transport of Jews who are subject to special treatment. The three cars already there are not enough. I ask for another five-ton vehicle. In addition, I ask you to send for the existing 3 machines (2 "Dai Mond", 1 "Saurer") 20 more sleeves for pumping gas, since the existing ones are already leaking. There is no doubt that gas chambers were indeed used to exterminate prisoners, including Jews. They were convenient because of the simplicity of their design - exhaust gas was discharged into the body of the car, and the prisoners who were there quietly died from carbon monoxide. This was done in order to spare the nerves of the executioners, who did not see their victims (besides, not Germans, but Soviet citizens were often behind the wheel of the gas chambers). This is ideal. In practice, acorns smelled exhaust gas, began to understand what was happening to them, and screamed desperately. By the way, at the end of the 30s, the Soviet NKVD also had its own "gas chambers", and little is known about the scale and methods of application. As for the Germans, they did not have the Soviet experience of mass terror during the Civil War and the Great Purge of 1957-1938. The firing squads involved in the extermination of Jews were not accustomed to seeing hundreds of corpses lying in a row, which Himmler later proudly spoke about. Therefore, as Otto Ohlendorf, Commander of Task Force D, who operated under Army Group South, testified during the investigation and at the Nuremberg trials, executions were carried out from a relatively large distance from carbines, machine guns and machine guns so that the executioners did not see the faces of the execution.

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many, and many victims survived and later testified to the Holocaust. The NKVD acted much more professionally. There they shot "enemies of the people" point-blank in the back of the head with pistols. By the way, Chekists preferred to use German pistols - Walter systems. The use of gas chambers by the Germans, I repeat, does not cause any doubts. But as for the notorious gas "cyclone-B", which allegedly poisoned Jews in large rooms in concentration camps (under the guise of a bath), its real use for these purposes is highly doubtful. According to the testimony of the Austrian engineer Wolfgang Fröhlich at the trial against the publisher Gerhard Foerster, owner of the publishing house Metze U151en, and the writer Jürgen Graf in connection with the Swiss law on racial discrimination, held in the Swiss city of Baden on July 16, 1998, "insecticide cyclone B - hydrocyanic acid absorbed into a granulate-like carrier substance. When it comes into contact with air, it is released. The boiling point of hydrocyanic acid is 25.7° ... The temperature in the "gas chamber" of the "extermination camps", even if we take into account the rise in temperature from the people present in it, and even during the warm season, could not exceed 15°. Then, for the acid to evaporate in quantities sufficient to create a poisonous atmosphere, it would take several hours. But, according to witnesses, the death of the victims came very quickly. They say from "instantly" to 15 minutes. To cause such a quick death, the executioners would have to spend up to 40-50 kg of "cyclone B" for one poisoning. And that would make working in the gas chambers impossible.

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The Sonderkommandos, who, according to witnesses, were cleaning the gas chambers, entering them, even in gas masks, would immediately fall dead. Through the open doors, huge volumes of hydrocyanic acid would come out and poison the whole camp, everything around. Nevertheless, on July 21, 1998, the defendants were sentenced as follows: Jürgen Graf - 15 months in prison with mandatory imprisonment and 8,000 francs fine; Foerster - 12 months in prison and 12 thousand francs fine.

What is certain is that Zyklon-B gas was indeed produced in Germany during World War II as a disinfectant. But was it also used as a military poison

substances for the destruction of Jews and other prisoners in concentration camps is a big question. It is quite possible that the Jews in the death camps were exterminated using more traditional methods: they were shot, starved, they did not provide medical care, helping to spread epidemics in the camps. |

Opponents of the revisionists usually claim that the Germans had a powerful ventilation system in the gas chambers, which supposedly made it possible to remove all the gas from there within a few minutes. It should be noted that traces of these most powerful ventilation installations have not been found. On the other hand, there is no evidence, including even post-war testimonies of witnesses, that Tsi Klon-B was used to exterminate Jews in the occupied Soviet territories in 1941-1945, which looks rather strange. It would seem that there is the very place for him, so as not to make Ohlendorf's subordinates and other leaders suffer.

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Einsatzkommandos, who had to hastily and casually shoot crowds of unfortunate people at freshly dug graves, leaving, moreover, numerous undesirable witnesses to the crime. It seems inexplicable why the Nazis willingly used Zyklon-B in occupied Poland and Germany, but refused to deal with it in the Baltics, Ukraine, Belarus, Crimea and the Caucasus. We know about the use of "cyclone-B" for the destruction of people mainly from the testimony and memoirs of the former commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Hess. It is possible that he was under pressure from the investigators and hoped for a pardon by repeating propaganda stereotypes.

The fact that captured German officers often gave false testimony not only to Soviet, but even to British and American investigators only in order to improve the conditions of their detention, says, for example, Nikolaus von Below: protection. The food was inadequate and poor. Bad Nenn Dorf, where I had to stay for almost three months, was the apogee of my entire captivity. At night I heard

the screams of the prisoners. My assumption that they were being tortured was not far from the truth.

A few days later, when I had "settled down" a bit, I was summoned for interrogation. I had to trot.

The investigators made me stand for hours (in the NKVD this was called "reading a wall newspaper"). They again took up the topic already studied in detail in Iserlohn - Hitler's supposed secret orders (on the continuation of the struggle after his death. - B.S.), with the only difference that now they did not believe me. When I, adhering to the truth, in good health

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in my mind and knowledge of the matter, I denied the existence of such orders, the tone of the interrogation became even sharper, and the treatment of me even worse. They reduced my already miserable ration, removed all the wretched furniture from my cell, and at night they threw a blanket, wrapped in which I slept on the bare floor. But THIS "night's REST" LASTED only four hours. In the morning at 4.00 the sentry took away the blanket. This went on for about a week, during which I was not interrogated. Then they took me back for interrogation, and I repeated my testimony. One of the interrogators, who tried in various ways to extract the necessary testimony from me, was, as it turned out, the English historian Trevor-Roper.

The consequence of my stubborn "denial" was the continuation of attempts to break me. All this seemed so stupid to me that I decided, just to improve my situation, to start spinning all kinds of fables for the English ... I presented them - although not too grossly exaggerated - a mixture of fiction and truth. I described the last days in the bunker as I experienced them. As a first success, I was able to state the return of the old "furniture" to my cell. I was given paper and a pen, and I wrote out my testimony in seven points. Since then I have been left alone, but at first I was still in solitary confinement. Subsequently, it gave me no small pleasure to read in Trevor-Roper's book "The Gauleiter's Last Days" ("Hitler's Last Days") nonsense about the task Hitler allegedly gave me to convey to Keitel his secret message. By the way, apparently, von Below in his memoirs was a little cunning. In fact, he was ordered to deliver not a secret order to Keitel to continue the resistance, but a political

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adjutant Hitler to his successor Doenitz, but the adjutant did not care too much about the fulfillment of this mission, preferring to take care of saving his own life first of all.

And here, for example, is the testimony of Chief Corporal Wehrmacht Le Courte, given to the military tribunal of the 374th Infantry Division on November 29, 1944 (they appeared as a document of the Soviet side at the Nuremberg Trials): "Before I was captured by the troops of the Red Army, then until February 4, 1944, I served in the 1st scooter company of the 2nd air infantry division at the airfield support commandant's office ... In November 1942, I took part in the execution of 92 citizens. Since April, I have taken part in the execution of 55 Soviet citizens, I shot them. I made notes in a special book how many prisoners of war and civilians I had shot... In addition to shooting prisoners of war, I also shot partisans and civilians and burned houses together with camps. In November 1942, I took part in the execution of 55 Soviet citizens, I shot them. In addition, I also participated in punitive expeditions, where I set fire to houses. In total, I burned more than 30 houses in different villages. As part of a punitive expedition, I came to the village, went into the houses and warned the population that no one should leave the houses, we would burn the houses. I set fire to the houses, and if anyone tried to escape from the houses, no one was let out of the house, I drove them back into the house or shot them. Thus, I burned more than 30 houses and 70 civilians, mostly old people, women, children ...

At the Nuremberg trials, evidence provided by the prosecution was given the most favorable treatment, they were not

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taken to be particularly critical. Although some of the testimonies, especially those provided by Soviet prosecutors, were flawed, for example, when it came to Katyn (Soviet prosecutors tried to blame the shooting of Polish officers in Katyn on the Germans with the help of perjury). As for the testimony of Le Courtet, their unreliability is visible to the naked eye. Why, one wonders, suddenly, the gallant corporal, who was captured in February 1944, begins to recall in such detail the crimes of the autumn of 1942? Did he hope that they would give him a reinforced ration for this? And who asks

Xia, could convict him of the crimes of a year and a half ago? And some of the details are absolutely fantastic and obviously invented not by poor Le Courtet, but by Smershev investigators. There is also a mysterious book, where it is entered how many people were shot by each soldier. Neither the Soviet nor the Allied troops found a single copy of such a book, and it is not clear why it had to be kept at all. And the scene when the soldiers go around the houses and warn the residents not to leave their homes under any circumstances, as they are about to be burned down, could have been born only in the Soviet mind, accustomed to carry out the most idiotic orders of the authorities. I wonder if there would be at least one normal person who, after such a warning, would not try to escape at any cost. And there are thousands and thousands of such dubious documents about "German atrocities", along with, I must say, an even greater number of wartime documents from the German side, which do not raise doubts about their authenticity. And clearly unreliable are, in particular, the post-war testimonies of former SS officers,

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death camp guards and surviving prisoners that up to 20 million Jews were exterminated, or that 6 million Jewish children were exterminated in Auschwitz alone. Just as fantastic are the allegations that in each of the death camps - Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, Sobibor and others - several million Jews were exterminated. All these figures are in too blatant contradiction with demographic statistics, however wide the assumptions we make.

It should be noted that, generally speaking, in purely material terms, the Holocaust brought only losses to the Germans. Part of the cost of the "Final Solution" was paid off by the gold and jewels confiscated from the victims, but after all, these jewels, after all, could be confiscated from the unfortunate Jews without destroying them. The gold crowns plucked from the mouths of the corpses were only a tiny addition. But the cost of holding the action was much higher. The cremation of one body of a deceased or mortified prisoner of the death camp alone required from 12.5 to 15 kg of coke, so that the disposal of a million victims required up to 14 thousand tons of coke. In total, only in the crematoria of Auschwitz (Osventsima) and Birkenau, 4756 corpses could be burned per day. By the way, taking into account the crematoria of Majdanek and other death camps for 1942 and 1943



it was possible to burn, when used at full capacity, well over 4 million Jews, who, according to the Eichmann report, were destroyed in death camps and concentration camps, so that the method of assessing Holocaust victims by the capacity of crematoria is useless. To carry out the Holocaust, tens of thousands of Sonderkommando fighters and guards of death heroes were involved, which otherwise could be

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it would be used at the front, in the fight against partisans or for work in the military industry. Hundreds of thousands and millions of Jews during deportations to the place of extermination were sometimes transported hundreds and thousands of kilometers to the places of extermination, which also required significant expenses, the diversion of vehicles, scarce fuel, and made military transport difficult. Not to mention the fact that many Jewish artisans in Poland and the occupied Soviet territories worked for the needs of the German army, and many Jews could be used to work in industry. But the latter was applied only to a minimal extent, and then mainly from the second half of 1943. Not to mention the enormous damage to Germany's prestige when the Holocaust became known during the war. in the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. However, the National Socialists did not skimp on ideology. After all, the physical destruction of Jewry was one of the main goals of National Socialism, along with the achievement of world domination.

For a long time, the extermination of the Jews was carried out in deep secrecy, even from a number of top officials of the Reich. But on October 4, 1945, speaking to senior SS officers in Posen, Himmler declared: "I want to talk frankly with you about a very serious matter. Now, among ourselves, we can talk about it quite openly, but I will never talk about it publicly. Just as, in obedience to an order, we did our duty on June 30, 1934 and put our errant comrades against the wall (meaning the murder of Rem and his supporters. - B.S.) - but we never spoke and will not begin to speak about this. Our natural tact prompted us to never

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sit this topic. Each of us was horrified, but at the same time we understood that the next time, if necessary, he would do the same.

Now we are talking about deportation and the extermination of the Jewish nation. It sounds simple: "The Jews will be destroyed." And all the members of our party will certainly say this: "The extermination of the Jews, their extermination is one of the points of our program, and it will full."

And then all 80 million worthy Germans come to us, and each asks for his decent Jew. All the rest, of course, are pigs, but this one is a good Jew. None of those who say this have seen it happen with their own eyes... Most of those present here know what it is like to see 100, or 500, or 1000 corpses laid in a row. To be able to endure this - with the exception of individual cases of human weakness - and to preserve decency in oneself - this is the test that hardened us. This is a glorious unwritten page in our history, for we know how difficult it would be for us today - under the conditions of the bombing, the hardships and hardships of wartime, if Jews still lived in every our city: hidden saboteurs, agitators and troublemakers. This glorious page of our history will never be written...

The wealth they owned, we took from them. I gave a strict order, carried out by SS Obergruppen Fuhrer Pohl (Head of the Economic Department of the SS. - B.S.), to transfer all this to the Reich. We left nothing for ourselves. Those who make mistakes will be punished in accordance with the order given by me at the very beginning, which read: anyone who appropriates even one of these marks will be under

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lies the penalty. Several members of the SS - not many of them - violated this order, and they are executed. There will be no mercy. We have a moral right, we have an obligation to the German people to destroy this nation that wanted to destroy us. But we have no right to enrich ourselves, even if we are talking about only one fur coat, one watch, one brand or one cigarette. Finally, we do not want to destroy the bacillus and let it infect itself and die on its own. I will never allow myself to stand aside and watch how even a small wormhole appears and how it begins to grow. Wherever onani appears, together we will burn it. However, in general, we can say

that, inspired by love for our people, we coped with this most difficult task. In doing so, we have not done any harm to our inner world, our soul, our character...›

Two days later, on October 6, 1943, Himmler, speaking to the Gauleiters and Reichsleiters in Poznań, no doubt on behalf of Hitler, decided that the time had come to bring them up to speed on the program of extermination of Jewry, in order to make them unconditional with the participants in the genocide. The Reichsführer spoke in an intimate, sincere voice, but from what he heard, a chill ran through the skin of the assembled: "I ask you only to listen well to what was said in this circle and never talk about it. The question came to us: "What to do with women and children?" And in this case, I decided to find an absolutely clear solution. I do not, of course, consider it fair to exterminate men alone—let us say, kill them or order them to be killed—and raise avengers from our children for our sons and grandchildren. It is necessary to make a difficult decision - to sweep this people off the face of the earth ... Now it is clear to you -

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remember it. Perhaps we will return to this later, if the German people say something on this subject again. It would be better, I believe, that we all together would bear for our people, take responsibility (responsibility for the cause, not for the idea) and then take this secret to the grave.

Realizing what they now have to answer for in the event of an increasingly inevitable military defeat, the officials got drunk with grief, so that the Reichsleiters and Gauleiters had to be packed into the cars of the train that took them away from Posen almost like logs. After this incident, Goebbels promised in the future not to let the Gauleiters drink more than two glasses of cognac a day. And after all, some of the Gauleiters were actually hanged. But only a minority. Erich Koch, Reichskommissar of Ukraine and Gauleiter of East Prussia, and Heinrich Lohse, Reichskommissar of Ostland, which included the Baltic States and Belarus, also escaped the noose. The first received a life sentence, and the second escaped with 10 years in prison. Some, though not executed, were subjected to mockery. So, the former Gauleiter of Saxony Martyn Mutschmann, a 66-year-old old man, in May 45 with his hands tied, in his shorts, was driven around the city of Annenberg, 70 km from Dresden, and then placed on a pedestal of one of the monuments for everyone to see. The NKVD unit saved him from reprisal,

which placed Muchman in the Chemnitz prison.

From a common sense point of view, the "final solution" was insane. After all, by destroying millions of Jews, the Nazis in wartime deprived the German economy of millions of workers who could well be used, even if on a forced basis. "Final Solution"

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The swarm made it difficult to supply the army, since Jewish artisans could not always be quickly replaced. It is no coincidence that, at the request of the military command and the occupation administration, the Sonderkommando for the time being spared the Jewish craftsmen who worked for the needs of the army. It would seem that from a rational point of view, it would be more profitable for the National Socialists to drive the Jews of Europe to labor camps, where they could work to increase the military and economic potential of the Reich. Hitler was well aware of all the disadvantages of the "final solution" both in economic and propaganda terms. However, he had a mystical, bestial, irresistible hatred of the Jews and chose to follow the path of their complete destruction, despite all the obvious risks and disadvantages of such a course of action. The destruction of the Jews in his mind was inextricably linked with the triumph of the German race. The Fuhrer preached the slogan: "The Jews must die so that the Germans live, so that Germany lives." The tragedy of world Jewry and all of humanity was that the senseless from the point of view of common sense and inhuman "final solution" was carried out by completely rational and even optimal methods in terms of the destruction of the maximum number of people in the shortest possible time.

The Third Reich and the "new order" in Europe

It is a myth to assert that the German Nazis were equally enemies of all the peoples of Europe and that only a miserable bunch of renegades collaborated with them, while in all the occupied

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countries, the vast majority of the population actively fought against the Nazis. In fact, the "new order" in Europe, which Hitler dreamed of establishing, provided for a very differentiated attitude towards different peoples.

Hitler's "New Europe" was built in accordance with racial doctrine. In the territories occupied by the Germans, the so-called Germanic peoples were best treated. They were attached to the Reich as part of the protectorates of Bohemia and Moravia, Denmark and Norway. At the same time, Denmark was considered a "model protectorate", where, as in Belgium occupied by the Germans, the royal power and the former government functioned until 1943. The Dutch, Flemings and Walloons, as well as the Swedes and Swiss, also belonged to the Germanic peoples. Sweden and Switzerland were not occupied by the Germans, but some volunteers served in the SS. A significant number of Norwegians, Danes, Dutch, Flemings and Walloons also served in the Wehrmacht and the SS. There was even a project for the formation of a unit in the SS troops, consisting of British prisoners - the so-called Legion of St. George or the British Volunteer Corps.

Following the Germanic peoples came the Aryan peoples. This included the French, Latvians, Estonians, Russian Cossacks, the peoples of the North Caucasus and the Volga region, the Crimean Tatars, the Muslims of Bosnia and the Albanians. All of them were allowed to serve in the Wehrmacht and the SS. Finally, outcasts were peoples who were not considered to be the Aryan race: Poles, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Serbs and Russians. They were not allowed until 1943 to serve in the SS and combat units of the Wehrmacht. In relation to the Germans, they remained absolutely powerless, and the Germans were actually allowed to commit

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against them any criminal offenses, up to murder. As already mentioned, this continued until 1943, when the term "subhuman" (Oermens B) was officially withdrawn from use. Since that time, the concept of "non-Aryans" has not been used. All peoples, except Jews, were considered Aryan. Jews and Gypsies, of course, were still subject to extermination (the latter, strictly speaking, not by racial criteria, but due to the anti-social, according to the Nazis, way of life; settled Gypsies were not subjected to repression). But the status of the Poles remained uncertain. Although they were not exterminated, they were treated worse than, for example, Lithuanians and Belarusians, and, as before, they were not created into collaborationist formations. At the same time, sometimes the Poles received

advantage over the same Belarusians due to a higher educational qualification. Thus, it was precisely for this reason that in the Reichskommissariat Ostland, mostly Poles were railway workers, and these were very profitable positions under the conditions of occupation.

The "General Government of Warsaw" created on the main territory of Poland was to become an eternal colony of the Reich, where only Germans could occupy all administrative positions. And the Polish territories of West and East Prussia, Wartheland (the basin of the Warta River) and Upper Silesia, attached to the Reich, were subject to complete Germanization both at the expense of German settlers and Poles, racially recognized as suitable for becoming Germans.

There were also so-called allied nations: these were Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks, Croats, Slovenes, Italians and, to some extent, the French, since the Vichy government became an ally of Gith

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Lera. With the Slovenes, the situation, strictly speaking, was not entirely clear. Since 1941, the main part of Slovenia with Ljubljana was occupied by Italy and annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and a smaller part - to Germany, becoming part of the Austrian Gaus of Lower Styria, Carinthia and Carniola. But after Italy left the war, all of Slovenia, most of whose population supported the Axis countries, was occupied by German troops. In fact, Slovenian nationalists, led by General Lev Rupnik, achieved that the main part of Slovenia actually became a German protectorate, having received a government headed by Rupnik, based on the detachments of the so-called White Guard.

Serbia was under direct German occupation, but a local Serbian administration headed by General M. Nedich functioned there, and after the war, Hitler did not rule out the possibility of creating a Serbian state allied to the Reich. Banat, where the German minority made up almost a fifth of the population, had a special status and was in fact directly subordinate to the German occupation forces. Also, the region of Kosovo-Metohija had a special status, being only formally part of Serbia. The Albanian population here was granted a number of privileges, and schools were opened with teaching in the Albanian language. The zone of Italian occupation of Kosovo-Metohija was connected with Italy.

In general, in Yugoslavia, Slovenes, Croats, Bosnian Muslims and Albanians were on the side of the Germans (the territory inhabited by Macedonians was annexed to Bulgaria, where, by the way, a Bulgarian SS division was formed at the end of the war). Against them as part of the communist partisan

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The army of Josip Broz Tito fought most of the Serbs (especially those who lived in Croatia and Bosnia) and almost all Montenegrins, as well as part of the Macedonians. In addition, many Bosnian Muslims and Croats fought in the ranks of the partisans. On the territory of Albania, the Germans formed an entire Albanian division of the SS "Skanderbeg". The Albanians of Yugoslavia fought mainly in the ranks of the Albanian communist partisans under the leadership of En ver Hoxha. In many respects, the confrontation also continued along this line during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

The Finns were considered to be an allied nation to a lesser extent, since they waged their own "separate" war against the USSR, only interacting with the German troops when necessary. But the Finns, as representatives of the German people, were allowed to join the German parts of the SS as volunteers, along with Norwegians, Danes, as well as Swedes, Swiss, Dutch, Flemings, Walloons and Spaniards.

Concerning the French, Alfred Rosenberg stated that "in the course of the struggle against the neighbors, the French nation lost much blood, as a result of which there was a change in the character of the French." A more or less suitable element, in his opinion, remained in northern France, and especially in Normandy, which can even be called "little Germany". Hitler contemptuously referred to France as an "African mulatto state." The racial theory of the Nazis demanded the biological purity of the race. Meanwhile, just the laws of biology say that it is the mixing of small races that gives more viable offspring. It is known, for example, that mixed breed dogs are much more amenable to training.

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and adapt to the conditions of existence. Among people there are also a lot of geniuses, in

owl relation representing mestizos. There is no need to go far outside, it is enough to recall our national poet Pushkin, in whose veins Negroid blood flowed. But the Nazis needed racial theory as a propaganda tool, to unite the German ethnos and expel or exterminate "alien racial elements."

The device of the "New Europe" was ideally conceived as follows. The Greater German Reich was to include Germany within the borders of the end of 1938 (with Austria and the Sudetes annexed) with the additional inclusion of the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Alsace-Lorraine and the Polish territories listed above, as well as Memel. The rest of the Polish territory as part of the "general government" (including the Bialystok district and Eastern Galicia with Lvov) was to become a colony of the Reich.

In the protectorates of Bohemia and Moravia, Denmark and Norway, local governments functioned, to which local self-government bodies, the police and even small national armed forces were subordinate, numbering, for example, in the Czech lands about 7 thousand people. True, in 1943, with the deterioration of the military situation, the rights of local authorities in the protectorates were significantly curtailed. And in the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, this happened as early as the beginning of 1942. The Czech government actually no longer met as a single body, and its former head A. Eliash was executed on suspicion of having links with the allies. In 1945, the Council of National Unity, the puppet Czech parliament, was dissolved. In all protectorates

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The key ministries were headed by the Germans, and German courts began to operate on their territory. And in March 1943, Denmark even held free parliamentary elections, the only ones in occupied Europe that were won by moderate collaborators, and not openly by a fascist party. This accelerated the introduction in August of the 43rd state of emergency with the actual transfer of power to the command of the German occupation of the ONNY TROOPS.

Around the Reich, a belt of "buffer" states was also to be created, entirely dependent on Germany and friendly to her, since they were created by kindred German peoples. Among them-



It was planned to include Norway, Denmark and Holland within the pre-war borders. Belgium was supposed to be divided into two states. It was supposed to join the Belgian Flanders with French Flanders - the departments of Nord and Pas de Calais and create the Flanders state. Wallonia, on the other hand, was to unite with northeastern France. The rest of France was to become an independent state under the leadership of the Reich-allied government of Marshal Pétain. The fate of Luxembourg remained at first uncertain - whether to keep the Grand Duchy as a "buffer" German state, or to include it in the Reich. But already in August 1940, a course was set for the annexation of Luxembourg, which was subject to German laws, and all administrative positions were occupied by the Germans, both locals and visitors.

The Soviet territories occupied by the Wehrmacht,  
Ostland (with the inclusion of the Baltic

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tiki and Belarus), Ukraine and Crimea. At the same time, Transistria (the region of Odessa and the interfluvium of the Dniester and the Southern Bug) went to Romania, and Karelia to Finland. It was also supposed to create a Reich-Missariat of the Caucasus, with the inclusion of both the North Caucasus and Transcaucasia, but since the North Caucasus remained a war zone, and the Germans failed to capture Transcaucasia, this commissariat was never created. It was also allowed to create another commissariat in the Volga region, as well as the Reichskommissariat "Central Russia", but the matter did not come to practical implementation, since the corresponding regions remained a war zone. These territories, like the General Government, were subject to gradual Germanization at the expense of German settlers and local Volksdeutsche (ethnic Germans). The Aryan peoples in this territory had to either be Germanized or retain their identity. The Slavs were subject, depending on their racial characteristics, to either Germanization or deportation to the unoccupied part of Russia, to the Urals and beyond. Some of them could remain in the occupied territories to perform the work that the Germans and their allies would refuse. The number of Slavs was not to increase beyond certain limits and was to be regulated by famine and repression.

In the occupied Soviet territory, at various levels, the German military and occupation authorities made attempts to establish relations with the local population. For example, on October 25, 1941, Field Marshal Walter von Brauchitsch, Commander-in-Chief of the German Land Army, approved the instructions for fighting partisans, which stated:

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"The fight against the partisans will be greatly facilitated if the German troops succeed in winning the trust of the latter by reasonable and fair treatment of the population and by firm energetic measures show the inhabitants the superior strength of the German army, capable of taking them under its protection." And on April 10, 1943, the head of the SS and police in Belarus, Kurt Gottberg, at a meeting in Minsk, said: "Punitive expeditions for the purpose of total destruction are entirely and completely wrong. Then they shoot not at those whom they need, but at the innocent population. When old people, women and children are killed, villages are set on fire, the population says that the Germans are worse than the Bolsheviks, and the women run away to the women's battalions of bandits. In most areas, this remained at the level of declarations. In general, in those cases when the power was exercised by the Wehrmacht command, it was usually more humane in relation to the local residents than the occupying authorities represented by the ranks of the SD and SS.

The fact that they retained collective farms and state farms in most of the Soviet territory greatly harmed the Germans, believing that in this way it would be much easier to withdraw food for the needs of the German army. For example, on November 18, 1942, in the intelligence report of the NKVD Directorate "On the Situation in the Enemy-Occupied Areas of the Stalingrad and Rostov Regions, the North Caucasus and the Kalmyk SSR" it was noted: "In the orders issued by the German command, it was announced that collective farms, state farms and MTS are now property of the German army. Collective-farm and state property is not subject to any division. Collective farmers and workers of state farms and MTS are transforming

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... into a labor force working under the supervision and direction of the German military authorities.

Private ownership of land remained

only in the Baltic, in the Cossack regions and in the mountainous regions of the North Caucasus. Other territories, first of all, some territories of Ukraine and the Crimea, were to become areas of new German colonization after the war. The absence here of private ownership of land, previously destroyed by the Bolsheviks, should have facilitated this process.

At a meeting on July 16, 1941, Hitler emphasized: "Crimea must be liberated from all outsiders and populated by Germans. In the same way, Austrian Galicia should become a region of the German Reich...

Basically, it comes down to getting a huge pie, so that we, firstly, master it, secondly, manage it, thirdly, use

bring him down.

The Russians have now given the order for guerrilla warfare in our rear. This also has its advantages: guerrilla warfare gives us the opportunity to exterminate all who oppose us ...

The creation of a military power west of the Urals (independent of Germany. - B.S.) should never again be on the agenda, even if we have to fight for this for a hundred years. All my followers must know: the Reich will be safe only if there are no foreign troops west of the Urals. Germany takes upon itself the protection of this space from possible dangers. An iron law should be: "No one but the Germans is allowed to bear arms

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At the same time, local Germans (Volksdeutsche) in Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine did not enjoy special privileges. Their situation was certainly better than that of the indigenous local population, in particular, due to additional food cards specially issued to them, but worse than even the Germanic peoples, such as the Dutch. From the point of view of racial theory, this part of the folk sdeutsche was suspicious, since their ancestors actively mixed with non-Aryan peoples. The Soviet Volksdeutsche in the Wehrmacht were mainly used as soldiers and non-commissioned officers, they were not very willingly assigned officer ranks, and the ranks from major and above them, as well as the Baltic Germans, were assigned only on the personal order of Hitler.

The Russian Empire was a colonial power. The peoples of the Caucasus and Central Asia, seeing in Soviet power the heir to the empire, did not stop fighting in the 20s and 30s, mainly under Islamic and separatist slogans. It is natural that the Caucasian highlanders greeted the German troops as their liberators. The Germans, for their part, pursued a policy different from the policy in the territories of the Slavic peoples of the USSR. Collective farms were dissolved here, and not the German occupation authorities did not interfere in the traditional way of life of the mountain peoples. The Germans went to the Caucasus under the slogan: "German soldiers are your brothers! Come to their side and help them! Long live the free Caucasus under the protection of Adolf Hitler's Greater Germany! › Similarly, in the Cossack regions of southern Russia, traditional Cossack self-government was restored, and the land was transferred to the Cossacks. Also in the Baltic States, where there were no collective farms, the land remained with the peasants and kept

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elk local self-government. Neither one nor the other was in the Slavic regions. The collective farms were preserved under the pretext that the s. with their help it is easier to supply the active army, and the local self-government has long been destroyed by the Bolsheviks and the Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians have no experience of such self-government.

In fairness, it should be noted that the same Karachays or Balkars who presented Hitler with a golden harness had not the slightest idea about Hitler's crimes. The Gazavat, a newspaper of North Caucasian collaborators published in Berlin, came out under the slogan "Allah is above us - He is with us." "Ghazavat" published essays on the history of the Resistance to the Soviets in the Caucasus. So, outside of August 11, 1943, in the editorial "We will take revenge, a certain Gobashev asked his comrades in the struggle a rhetorical question: "Shouldn't we take revenge when our native Caucasus during the years of the Bolshevik Yezhovshchina buried 46,000 of his best sons, our brothers and fathers."

In June 1941, joyful news sounded in the mountains of the Caucasus: Germany had begun a war against the Bolsheviks, Germany was extending a hand of fraternal help to the peoples of Eastern Europe oppressed by the Bolsheviks. The villages of Karachay were deserted. Hundreds, thousands of Karachays went to the mountains and there, under the leadership of Kada Bairamukova, they organized insurgent detachments. The largest of these detachments, directly led by Kady, soon grew to 400 people.

Further, when the front was still far away, Karachayev-

The insurgents were already waging a courageous struggle against the Bolsheviks, who had to maintain numerous garrisons in Karachai. When the front approached the mountains of the Caucasus, the actions of the

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The rebels led by Kady Bayramukov became so active that they were able to cut off all retreat routes for the Reds, in particular the Klukhor Pass, through which several thousand Reds tried to leave for Svaneti. Hundreds of killed commissars (not in pursuance of the criminal Hitlerite order to liquidate the commissars, but because of the sincere hatred of the local population for them. - B.S.), thousands of captured Red Army soldiers, large flocks of cattle captured from the retreating Bolsheviks, a huge amount of military equipment and weapons - these were the trophies of the rebels. With the active help of the Karachays, the German troops occupied Karachay by a roundabout movement without firing a single shot. Along the paths known only to the sons of the mountains, the German soldiers-liberators entered the villages.

During the stay of the German army in Karachai, Kady Bayramukov organized a fight against the Bolshevik gangs hiding in the forests, and many of them were completely destroyed (this time the partisans were the Slavic population and the encircled Red Army soldiers. - B.S.). The withdrawal of the German army from the Caucasus began, and the auls of Karachay became empty. Together with the German army, most of the highlanders left, and Kady Bayramukov also left. ,

Now he leads the Karachay liberation movement. Under his direct leadership, the proud sons of Karachay are preparing to fight the Bolsheviks not for life, but for death.

"Under the sacred banner of Gazavat, we will either die or return to our native Karachay," says Kady Bayramukov. And in his eyes there is an unshakable determination. "Yes, we will return to our villages," echo the leader of his experienced friends, who have become under the banner of "Gazavat" - fighters of the mountain legion.

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The struggle of the Balkars against Bolshevism in the era

Collectivization was described in the pages of Gazavat by an officer of the mountain legion Ya. Khalaev, a former Kolyma prisoner. He spoke about the uprising that broke out on February 17-18, 1930 in the Chegemsky and Elbrusky districts: "On the banner of the rebels was "Down with communists and collective farms!" mountain troops (with the exception of Muslim highlanders) from Rostov-on-Don, Ordzhonikidze and other cities, and only on April 20, 1930, they managed to brutally suppress the rebels. In the Chegem Gorge, near Su-Auzu, 19 Balkar "eagles" under the command of Kuliev fought for about two weeks against two squadrons of Red troops, and ONLY the lack of ammunition defeated them. Separate military groups of Jews - Arkadin, Savitsky, Murat and others, suffering heavy losses in people, continued to fight against partisan detachments. It was possible to disperse the partisan detachments only by cruel mockery of the relatives of the partisans (abreks). The latter, in the name of saving the survivors and eking out a miserable existence of relatives, were forced to temporarily stop the struggle and sacrifice themselves. The party commissars, referring to Stalin's article "Dizziness from Success", guaranteed the freedom of the partisans who voluntarily appeared. But the promise was not kept. In 1937-1938 they destroyed the deceived, i.e. all the participants in the uprising, their accomplices and together with them the innocent Balkars. But it was not possible to subdue the Balkars, the Balkars began to hate the communists, the collective farms and Stalin's "sharp sword" - the GPU. Do not worry, malice oppressed the Balkar "eagles", and they diligently

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prepared for battle. The oath sworn at the graves of the fallen sons of Balkaria was carried out honestly by the Balkarian patriots, and especially actively in 1941-1942 with the help of the liberation army of the Aa4oPa Hshega. The activities of the Balkar partisans - abreks and the entire population of Balkaria are good. known to the German command."

The methods of the Chekists and the Red Army in the fight against the mountaineers-partisans were no different from those used by the Germans in the fight against the Belarusian and Ukrainian partisans: hostage-taking and execution of relatives of the rebels, burning of unruly villages. In 1994 and later, the NKVD acted in the same way against the Ukrainians who supported the UPA, and against the "forest brothers" of the Baltic states.

Khalaev gave an example of the death of one such village

Thousands of Balkars, Kabardians, Karachays and other peoples of the North Caucasus were exterminated by the Bolsheviks in 1941-1942 because they wanted Stalin's defeat. In the autumn of 1942, only in one Balkarian village of V. Balkaria, the Bolsheviks killed 575 civilians, and only old men, women and children who could not hide in the mountains were killed. Their dwellings were burned to the ground by NKVD gangs. The reason for this bloody orgy was that the inhabitants of this village restored the mosque and prayed in

her for the victory of the Germans.

These atrocities pale in comparison to what the special detachments of the NKVD are now doing to the defenseless population in the regions of the North Caucasus.

But the main atrocities were yet to come. Back then, in August 1943, the rebels of Chechnya and some other regions were also waging a hopeless struggle. In "Ghazavat" the testimonies of one highlander were cited, in July

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1943, who defected from the Red Army to the Germans, and who had previously observed the agony of the Chechen uprising: "I was in Grozny on June 10, 1943. There is a terrible fight going on. All Chechnya is on fire. The villages are constantly bombarded day and night by Soviet aircraft. All Chechens have been withdrawn from the army and returned to Chechnya. All Chechens are rounded up in 35 mountainous regions, cordoned off by red troops and doomed to death. Despite the inequality of forces, our valiant sons of the mountains, the abrekhs, are waging a desperate struggle for their liberation."

It was a prelude to the deportation of Chechens to Kazakhstan in February 1944. In the course of this deportation, Chechnya had its own "village of fire" - the village of Khai Bakh, where the NKVD troops burned alive more than 700 women, old people and children. |

Karachays and Balkars also did not escape deportation. If in Chechnya, which the German troops never reached, both actual participants in the partisan struggle and innocent civilians were deported, in Karachai and Balkaria, those who, at best, preserved neutrality or even collaborated with the Soviet government. After all, all active collaborators left Balkaria and Karachay together with the retreating German army. By the way, they are still relatively lucky. After the war, the Western allies extradited the Muslims of the Caucasus and the Volga region not

as active as Russians, Cossacks and natives of Eastern Ukraine and Eastern Belarus. Those who were extradited were either shot or sent to the Gulag for 20 years. Few survived there, although the survivors were released under an amnesty much earlier, in 1956. According to English

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historian Nikolai Tolstoy, "in 1946 there were supposedly about 80,000 Muslims in the West, and it is unlikely that they were forcibly repatriated." Later, many Caucasian Muslims did not move to Egypt, Turkey, Syria and other Islamic countries and never returned to their homeland. Perhaps that is why in subsequent years, up to our time, separatist tendencies among the Karachays and Balkars were less pronounced than among the Chechens. After all, many active participants in the Chechen insurrectionary movement ended up in special settlements, where the chances of survival were still greater than in forced labor camps. Some partisans managed to hide in the highlands and avoid deportation. As a result, the continuity of the tradition of Resistance was preserved in Chechnya, while in Karachay, Balkaria and Kabarda it was lost to a certain extent.

In March 1945, the Reichskommissariat Ostland was abolished. The General Commissioner of Belarus began to report directly to the Minister for the Eastern Lands, and a special Reich Residency was established for the Baltic states. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia began to be called not general districts, but lands under German protection. Such a reform was supposed to demonstrate to the local population Germany's intention to expand its rights and the possibility of creating states allied with Germany in the future in these territories, thereby encouraging them to more actively join collaborationist formations. At the same time, in connection with the attribution of the Eastern Slavs to the Carians, Be

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lorussian committee of trust headed by a former head



of the Belarusian Rada and the deputy of the Polish Seim Radoslav Ostrovsky (Astrovsky) is a kind of prototype of the future Belarusian government. The Union of Belarusian Youth and the Belarusian Regional Defense were also created, but all these formations received the support of the local population only in the western regions of Belarus, formerly part of Poland. The BKO proved unable to cope with the partisan movement in Eastern Belorussia. Large formations of partisans in this region were only able to be eliminated by regular German troops on the very eve of the beginning of the general offensive of the Red Army in Belarus in June 1944.

In general, a strong partisan movement existed in the occupied Soviet territory in Byelorussia, a number of regions of Ukraine, in the Crimea, in the Bryansk and Smolensk regions. At the same time, partisans of the anti-Soviet Ukrainian Insurgent Army prevailed in Western Ukraine, which fought both the Germans and Soviet and Polish partisans, and then with regular Soviet units. Elsewhere in Europe the partisans were particularly strong in Yugoslavia, Poland, Albania, Greece and Italy. In France, there were also partisans - "poppies", primarily in the southern mountainous and wooded departments, but the scope of the partisan movement was significantly inferior to the Italian one. According to the witty remark of the Russian writer Anatoly Gladilin, in France, mass registration in the Resistance began only after the landing in Normandy. But, despite the enormous difficulties created by the partisans, the Germans managed to control the main highways in their rear and provide military transportation. none

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a major operation at the front was not disrupted in time due to the actions of the partisans. On this occasion, for example, on September 17, 1943, Wehrmacht captain Wolfgang Fiedler wrote from Mogilev to his friend Lieutenant Colonel: "Partisans are everywhere and nowhere ... Explosions on the railway, communication lines, acts of sabotage at all existing enterprises, robberies, etc. ... do not leave the agenda ... The partisans are becoming more and more impudent, since we do not have enough guard troops to act decisively ... The partisans dominate the wide expanses. It is surprising that we are still quite tolerably providing transportation and supplies to the front.

In general, in 1945 there was a certain averaging of the situation in all the territories occupied by Germany. In the more liberal protectorates and "Germanic" countries of Western Europe, the regime was gradually tightened, and in Eastern Europe it was softened.

although in the West the situation of the population still remained much better than in the East.

On November 15, 1942, Elena Skryabina, a Leningrader evacuated to Pyatigorsk, wrote in her diary: "Most of the population of Pyatigorsk "accepted" non-German occupation. This happened mainly because the Germans gave complete freedom to private enterprise. Not only private enterprises are flourishing, but even individual merchants: they bake pies and sell them in the markets, offer their products to restaurants and cafes, work in the same restaurants as waiters and cooks, sell kvass and mineral water... In Churches are having services, weddings, baptisms... Theaters are open. They are always full, and tickets must be ordered a few days before the performance.

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At the end of 1942, the OKH General Staff issued an order regulating the use of Russian volunteers in Wehrmacht units. There, in particular, it was said: "The battalion headquarters is in charge of the selection of volunteers. He also takes an oath of allegiance to the Fuhrer.. A construction battalion, auxiliary units for fighting partisans, etc., are created from volunteers in order to use German soldiers in active units.. A list of volunteers who have taken the oath is maintained and registration cards are registered in the battalion is not ... A questionnaire is drawn up for each volunteer. Volunteers come to us to create better conditions for themselves in the present and future, and therefore it is necessary to create better living conditions for them. To educate them in the spirit of fighters against Bolshevism. Instill in them "military pride" (by issuing uniforms and insignia). The German soldier must be a model for volunteers. The junior command staff is specially selected to serve the volunteers. Prevent familiarity. The German soldier must keep the upper hand, but at the same time take care of the volunteers. Volunteers who speak German should be appointed trustees ... Disciplinary sanctions should be imposed on volunteers as on German soldiers (monetary penalties should not be imposed) ... The greatest punishment should be sending to a prisoner of war camp (former civilians should be sent to a civilian camp)". The order also emphasized that "weapons are not always issued to volunteers", and it was forbidden to put them on guard at weapons and ammunition depots. Volunteers received a very modest content - from 30 to 42 marks per month, quartered separately from the Germans -

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racial theory did not allow coexistence with "subhumans", and the Germans were afraid of their forced allies. But food "hi-vi" (NIBUIShre - "volunteer assistants") were provided on a par with German soldiers. Only now they were not always given the German uniform, and even then often the old one.

As the German historian K.G. Pfeffer, the "volunteers" "provided a great deal of help to our troops... Taking into account the difficulties created by the partisan war, it can be said that the German front troops and the rear service in the East would not have been able to continue the fight for a long time if a significant part of the population did not work for the Germans and did not help the German troops. As in Yugoslavia, on Soviet territory, the main burden of the fight against the partisans was borne not by the Germans, but by local collaborationist formations.

It should be noted that the He-Vs and other fighters of the German auxiliaries served Hitler not only in order not to die of hunger, but also because of their long-standing anti-Soviet convictions. So, on December 7, 1942, the Special Department of the Stalingrad Front sent a report to the Deputy People's Commissar of Internal Affairs Viktor Abakumov with excerpts from the letters of the Cossacks serving in the German army to their relatives. One of them, Semyon Larin, informed his father: "I have the right to be proud that I am a soldier in the German army, I am listed as a Don Cossack. On mobilization he did not fight, he immediately went to the side of the German army. In general, the Reds did not fight for a single minute ... "Larin and other Cossacks were put on the All-Union wanted list.

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And in 1943, the Cossacks were allowed to take an oath of allegiance to the Fuhrer, and the author of the text of the oath was the ataman of the All-Great Don Army in the Civil War, General Pyotr Krasnov. The Cossacks promised: "I promise and swear by Almighty God,

ed the Holy Gospel that I will faithfully serve the Leader of New Europe and the German people, Adolf Hitler, and I will fight against Bolshevism, not sparing my life to the last drop of blood...

In the field and in fortresses, in the trenches, on the water, in the air, on land, in battles, skirmishes, patrols, flights, sieges and assaults, I will bravely resist the enemy and will do everything, faithfully serving together with the German army in the defense of New Europe. and my own army from Bolshevik slavery and the achievement of the complete victory of Germany over Bolshevism and its allies. .

In the Regiment of Russian Volunteers "Weise" they took the oath somewhat differently: "I swear this holy oath before God that in the fight against the Bolshevik enemies of my homeland I will unquestioningly obey the Supreme Commander of all the armed forces, Adolf Hitler, and as a brave soldier I am ready at any time give your life for this oath."

The turning point in the mood of those who stood on the side of Germany did not occur until the end of 1942, after the defeats suffered by the Axis at Stalingrad and in North Africa. German reports noted with alarm that as early as the 20th of November 1942, in connection with the news of German defeats in North Africa and near Stalingrad, there was a significant increase in desertion from collaborationist formations.

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It should be emphasized that in relation to a number of newly minted Soviet citizens who lived in the territories annexed to the USSR only in 1939-1940, the term "collaborationism" generally loses its meaning. For Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, residents of Western Ukraine. and Belarus, as well as Bessarabia, the Soviet government and the Red Army were occupiers, and for the same reason those Latvians, Estonians or Ukrainians who collaborated with the Soviet troops and the NKVD could be called collaborators. The Lithuanians were never allowed to form an SS division because they were considered too closely mixed with the non-Aryan people, the Poles. On the other hand, the Estonians formed an SS division, and the Shi armor - even two, which until the middle of 1944 retained high combat effectiveness. Only after the Allied landing in Normandy did the Baltic SS men, who harbored the utopian hope that Anglo-American troops land in the Baltic, lose their desire to fight, although they offered resistance to the advancing Red Army in the Courland cauldron. In total, taking into account "hee-vi", security

units, police battalions, two Latvian, Estonian, Galician, Belarusian SS divisions, ROA, Russian SS division "RONA", as well as numerous separate special units, the 162nd Infantry Division, formed from Turkic peoples, North Caucasian, Georgian, Armenian, Turkic, Volga SS legions, Cossack corps of Generals Krasnov von Panivitsai of the Cossack camp of General (former Soviet major) Domanov served in the Wehrmacht from one and a half to two million Soviet citizens.

Collaborationism was widespread not only among Soviet, but also among German prisoners of war

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nyh (although none of the latter fought on the side of the Red Army with arms in hand). For example, on January 9, 1943, the commander of the German 6th Army encircled in Stalingrad, General Friedrich Paulus, issued the following order: "The Russians are making repeated attempts to enter into an agreement with the army command or lower units ... They want various promises and assurances break our will to resist. We all know what awaits us if the army lays down its arms. Most of us face imminent death, either from an enemy bullet, or from starvation and suffering in a nightmarish Siberian captivity. One thing is clear - whoever surrenders will not see their loved ones. There is only one thing left for us - to fight to the last bullet, despite the cold and hunger. Three weeks later, the army capitulated.

And on October 26, 1944, the same Friedrich Paulus, only already being in Soviet captivity, put his signature under an appeal to German soldiers, which said: "Mr. Himmler's statement that German soldiers in Russian captivity are treated inhumanly that with the help of a whip and at the point of a revolver they are forced to make propaganda against their fatherland. In the Soviet Union, prisoners of war are treated humanely and correctly ... "One must think that at that moment Paulus did not know that almost none of the soldiers of the 6th Army who had surrendered were already alive, and he himself would have to test the Russian "humanism" for another 9 years. Of more than 90,000 prisoners, only 5,000 returned home. Paulus, like most captured generals, survived the war and died in 1957 in Dresden.

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On October 6, 1943, SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler, speaking in Poznan to the Reichsleiters and Gauleiters, spoke of General Vlasov in this way: "We told this general about the following: that there is no way back for you, you probably understand. But you are a significant person, and we guarantee you that when the war is over, you will receive a lieutenant general's pension, and in the near future, here are schnapps, cigarettes and women for you. That's how cheaply you can buy such a general... Russia can only be defeated by the Russians. And this Russian pig, Mr. Vlasov, offers us his services for this.

And on November 14, 1944, with the permission of the German authorities, the Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia was created in Prague, headed by General Vlasov. In the KONR manifesto, the main goals were proclaimed "the termination of the war and the conclusion of an honorable peace with Germany" and "the creation of a new free people's state without Bolsheviks and exploiters." The manifesto also said: "The forces of imperialism are fighting, led by the plutocrats of England and the USA, whose greatness is built on the oppression and exploitation of other countries and peoples. The forces of internationalism are fighting, led by the clique of Stalin, who dreams of a world revolution and the destruction of the national independence of other countries and peoples. Freedom-loving peoples are fighting, eager to live their own lives, determined by their own historical and national development. Of course, none of the authors of the manifesto believed in the reality of their achievements, when the Red Army stood on the Vistula and the borders of East Prussia.

But what was the fundamental difference between Field Marshal Paulus, chairman of the Union of Free Germans

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what officers" General Seidlitz and other members of this "Union" and the "Free Germany" committee, created on the initiative of the NKVD and the NKGB, from Generals Vlasov, Malyshkin, the Russian Liberation Army and the Liberation Committee? Both those and others agreed to cooperate with the enemy, primarily in order to get rid of the hardships of captivity, and, realizing that their career in their army was over, they tried to find an opportunity for a different, political career. Both of them, with the help of one totalitarian state, sought to fight against another totalitarian state, which was no less disgusting and really disgusted them at that moment. Only in this case both of them had to close their eyes to the crimes of their totalitarian masters.

ev. There were convinced people in Free Germany and KONR — anti-communists and anti-fascists, who fought against the Soviet power and the National Socialist state, respectively, even before the war. In KONR, these included, for example, the former colonel of the Red Army and General of the ROA Maltsev, who had tasted the Gulag before the war, the Cossack generals Krasnov and Shkuro, in Free Germany, the communists Pick and Ulbricht. But they were not numerically predominant in these organizations, recruited primarily from prisoners of war. True, the Soviet Union was among the winners, and Germany was defeated - that's the whole difference. And the fate of the Soviet and German collaborators was different. Vlasov and most of the leaders of the ROA and KONR were hanged. Paulus and Seydlitz survived, but were deceived by their masters. Pau Luce hoped that he would be released to his homeland, to his family, immediately after the end of the war. And just in case

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kept in captivity, albeit in comfortable conditions, right up to 1953. Only when the prisoner suffered a heart attack was it decided to repatriate him to the GDR, since the death of the field marshal, who was so actively used for propaganda purposes, would have had a negative impact on the German public. Seidlitz, on the other hand, counted on an important political or military post in post-Hitler Germany. Instead, in 1950 he was sentenced to 25 years for alleged war crimes. True, in 1955 he was released and repatriated to the FRG, where few of his former colleagues were ready to give him a hand. Probably, if Hitler had won, about the same fate awaited Vlasov, Zhilenkov, Malyshkin, Trukhin and other generals of the ROA. Stalin did not trust Seidlitz and Paulus, and Hitler did not trust Vlasov. It is characteristic that in the USA and England such collaborationist formations as KONR and Free Germany were not created. There was: there was, it is true, the Free French, but it was something else—rather something like a government in exile, like the Polish government in London. These were the governments of the allies, whose territories were captured by the enemy. Two factors played a role here. First, in Western countries, enemy prisoners were protected by the Geneva Convention and therefore showed no inclination towards collaborationism. Secondly, it was not in the American and British traditions that there was such a clear violation of the customs of war as the creation of an alternative government in relation to enemy states. By the way, the beginning of this practice was laid by Stalin,

simultaneously with the attack on Finland, creating a puppet ruler on Soviet territory

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stvo of the "Finnish Democratic Republic" headed by Otto Kuusinen, and even earlier - Lenin, who, during the invasion of the Red Army in Polotsk in 1920, created the Polish Revolutionary Committee headed by Julian Markhlevsky.

Third Reich and mysticism

Until now, the Third Reich, Hitler, Himmler, the SS, the National Socialist Party are given some mystical significance. Too many contemporaries and descendants were so shocked by the crimes committed by the state created by Hitler that they refused to see common sense in the actions of the Nazis and associated the actions of the Nazis with the influence of otherworldly forces. At the same time, however, as the German historian Joachim Fest rightly argued, "the idea of Hitler as a man of instinct, who walked his own path with the confidence of a clear seer, or, as he himself used the expression, "like a somnambulist", loses sight of rationality and composure, which underlay all his behavior and which ensured his ascent no less than all his abilities as a medium. So, one must take into account his extraordinary ability to learn... More than from his idols and comrades-in-arms, he learned from his opponents... He learned the most important thing from Marxism. Hitler himself confessed to Rauschning: "I learned a lot from Marxism ... But not this most boring doctrine of society and a non-materialistic view of history, this absurd nonsense ... I learned their methods."

At the same time, it must be admitted that his associates believed in Hitler as a newly appeared messiah. For not

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how many days before his death, Dietrich Eckart, a mystical journalist, poet, author of the Nazi battle slogan: "Wake up Germany," wrote to one of his comrades-in-arms: "Follow Hitler! He will dance, but I found the music for him." And Hitler in "My Struggle" recognized the great degree of influence on himself by the personality of Eckart and wrote about him like this: "All supporters



and the fighters of our doctrine must follow in the footsteps of these heroes (who died during the Munich putsch; Eckart himself died a month and a half after the putsch, from a heart attack. - B.S.), who sacrificed themselves in full consciousness of the greatness of our goals. These heroes will serve as an example to all who have wavered, to all who have weakened. Their deeds call each of us to the fulfillment of duty, as these advanced fighters were able to fulfill their duty to the very end. I rank among these heroes the person who managed to serve the cause of the revival of our people as a poet, as a thinker and, finally, as a fighter. His name is Dietrich Eckart."

Companions endowed Hitler with mystical and messianic properties. The Fuhrer, like the Pope, was declared absolutely infallible. Thus, Rudolf Hess proclaimed: "We see with pride that there is one person who is beyond criticism. This is the Fuhrer. We all feel and realize that he is always right and will always be right. Our National Socialism is based on complete loyalty and silent execution of his orders. We believe that the Fuehrer is obeying a higher call to change the course of German history. There is not and cannot be any criticism of this faith."

Mysticism was present in the National Socialist doctrine, but not at all in the same dose, as the authors of numerous publications on the topic "Three

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ty Reich and occultism. It was connected with the racial doctrine of National Socialism and its main thesis of the doctrine of "blood and soil", which is not derived from any rational grounds. In The Myth of the 20th Century, Alfred Rosenberg wrote: "Today a new faith is being born: the myth of blood. Combining faith and blood, we defend the divine nature of man, his integrity... Nordic blood is the very substance that must replace and overcome all the old sacraments." And Heinrich Himmler was obsessed with the idea of selecting only racially perfect individuals into the ranks of the SS. As early as December 51, 1951, he issued an order, which, in particular, stated: "The SS is an elected union of Nordic programmed men from a certain point of view." Due to the fact that "the future of the people depends on the selection and preservation of racially and hereditarily healthy blood", the Reichsfuehrer introduced a mandatory marriage license for all members of the SS, which should be given "Only on the basis of the principle of hereditary health", in order to "create of hereditarily healthy childbirth, which is of value from the point of view of the programmed Germanic type.

Hitler dreamed of creating a "nationally oriented

a "true Germanic" church, ready to justify all the provisions of racial theory that are contrary to Christian teaching. Under pressure from the National Socialists and with the active participation of the faction of "German Christians" that sympathized with them, the synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany elected on September 27, 1933, the pastor of the Königsberg military district, Ludwig Müller, "Bishop of the Reich." Hitler demanded that he create an evangelical autocephalous "Church of the Reich", but this idea was a failure.

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poured, meeting the opposition of the majority of German Lutherans.

In general, Hitler and most of the Nazi leaders, if they were not pure atheists, then at least in their beliefs had nothing to do with Christianity and only tolerated Christianity, treating Protestants better as more "nationally oriented", and worse - to the Catholics, since the latter were subject to the Pope, not subject to the Führer. On December 15, 1941, Hitler proudly declared: "I have six SS divisions, none of these soldiers go to church, and yet they go to their death with peace of mind." Therefore, on the belt buckles of the SS men, it was engraved not "God is with us", like a Wehrmacht soldier, but "My honor is loyalty". Although over time, there were Catholic priests in the SS troops (for example, in the French SS division Charlet Magne). The church was more of a necessary evil for the Nazis than an institution to be commended. Hitler had to reckon with the fact that the vast majority of Germans were adherents of various Christian denominations. In My Struggle, he wrote: "In our world, religious people cannot do without dogmatic rituals. The broad strata of the people do not consist of philosophers: for the masses of people, faith is often the only basis for a moral world outlook... If we want religious teachings and faith to really dominate the minds of the broad masses of the people, we must ensure that religion enjoyed unconditional authority... Hundreds of thousands of more intellectually highly developed people can personally live without these conventions. For a million

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But for new people, these conventions are absolutely necessary.

Dima... It is only thanks to dogma that a religious idea, generally speaking, amenable to the most varied interpretations, acquires a certain form, without which there is no faith... The politician has to think, first of all, not about the fact that a given religion has this or that shortcoming, but about whether there is something to replace the existing, albeit not quite perfect, religion. And until we have a better substitute, only a fool and a criminal will begin to destroy the old faith.

In "table talks" at Headquarters in the autumn of 1941, Hitler asserted that "the party is doing well that it does not enter into any relations with the church. We have never held prayer services in the troops. It would be better, I said to myself, to be excommunicated from the church for a while or put under a curse. Friendship with the church can be very costly. For if I have achieved anything, I will have to declare publicly: I have achieved this only with the blessing of the church. So I'd rather do it without her blessing, and no one will present the bill to me ...

The Christian thesis about the world beyond the grave cannot be replaced by anything, since it is completely untenable. But faith in eternal life has certain foundations. The mind and soul return to the common storehouse, as does the body. We will lay down fertilizers in the soil on which new life will appear. I don't want to rack my brains looking for answers to the questions "why?" and "why?". Still, we are not given to penetrate into the depths of the soul.

If there is a god, he gives not only life, but also the faculty of knowledge. And if I regulate my life with the help of the mind given to me by God, then I can make mistakes, but I will not lie.

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The relocation of bodies to the afterlife is impossible, if only because everyone who would be forced to look down on us would experience terrible torments: he would simply rage with rage, seeing the mistakes that people constantly make...

I aspire to such an order of things, when everyone would firmly know about himself: he lives and dies in the name of the preservation of his race. The task is to instill in the people the highest respect for those who have especially distinguished themselves in the struggle for the survival of the race.

Mystical faith in the great historical mission of the German people served as a justification for any cruelty. Hitler told Rauschning: "We have to be cruel. We must return

the ability to commit cruelty with a clear conscience. Only in this way can we free our people from weak-willedness and sentimental philistinism, from this love they feel and to a blissful sitting over an evening glass of beer. We no longer have time for fine souls. We must force our people to become great, since it fell to their lot to fulfill their historical mission.

Hitler's adjutant von Below testified: "During the years of my service, I have often thought about whether Hitler was baptized according to the Catholic rite and whether he grew up in the customs of his church, whether he feels connected with it. I never saw any signs of religious piety in him, nor did I see any hatred-filled anti-religious attitude of, say, the same Bormann, whose primitiveness and uncouthness, which manifested itself not only in this, constantly repulsed me.

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I have no doubt that Hitler, in his own way, believed in the full power of God, but this by no means made him meekly submissive. And in his political actions and in relation, for example, to Jews or "Slavic subhumans", he did not feel bound by any moral law, but was convinced that he must constantly act in the interests of the German people and, moreover, in agreement with Providence. You can't really say. |

Mysticism was used by Hitler and his party mainly for propaganda purposes. As I. Fest notes, "as a "miracle" and a "fairy tale," the National Socialists ... began to praise the so-called "seizure of power." Propaganda specialists adored words from the field of magic, with their help they tried to give the event a halo of the supernatural and sacred.

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As soon as Hitler left the Hindenburg Palace, having received the coveted post of Reich Chancellor, he solemnly declared that, with God's help, he would no longer allow himself to be torn from power. And on the evening of January 30, 1933, the government decided to dissolve the Reichstag and hold new elections. This was followed by the burning of the Reichstag and terror against opposition parties. And from 7 pm until midnight on January 30, 25,000 members of the NSDAP and the Steel Helmet, an organization of veterans of the First World War, passed through the Brandenburg Gate in a grandiose torchlight procession.

The overwhelming majority of the legends connected with the topic "The Occult and Mystical Secrets of the Third Reich" go back to the book "Morning of the Magi" by French journalists Jacques Bergier and Louis Povel, first published in Paris in 1964. They asserted, in particular, that "the magical spirit of fascism armed

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all the levers of the material world. Lenin said that Soviet power plus the electrification of the whole country is socialism. Nazism in its own way is magic plus tank divisions." This thesis is supported by the following facts. As the authors of The Morning of the Magicians emphasize, "Nazism noisily and openly declared itself the enemy of intellectualism. The Nazis burned books, giving this violence against thought, unheard of in modern Europe, the character of a gloomy, oppressive ceremonial. The Nazis threw the greatest scientists into the ranks of their "Jewish-Marxist" and "Jewish-liberal" enemies. Everyone knows this. Far less well known are the cosmogonies, in the name of which Nazism rejected official Western science. And even less known, or completely unknown, are the religious concepts on which Nazism relied, or rather, some of its leaders. But only the knowledge of this hidden essence of Nazism allows us to consider the Second World War as a truly great spiritual conflict.

"We are cursed as enemies of the spirit," said Hitler. Yes, we are, but only in that deeper sense that bourgeois science in its idiotic pride cannot comprehend.

But the attempts of Bergier and Povel to connect Hitler and other leaders of the Third Reich with some secret occult societies cannot cause anything but a smile. Thus, they point out, with reference to the German rocket scientist Wilhelm Ley, who fled the Reich in 1933, that there was a secret society in Berlin of admirers of the English writer Bulwer-Lytton's novel The Race That Shall Surpass Us. It describes people whose psyche has reached the highest stage of evolution: "they will have power over the world and over themselves, which

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will make them equal to the gods, and now superhumans lurk

underground in deep caverns and will soon appear to rule mankind." The members of the society, in the words of Dr. Lay, "possess some secret means of changing race, by which one can be likened to subterranean supermen. For this kind of transformation, the members of society have a system of mental exercises. Start by fixing your eyes on an apple cut in half. Hitler, on the other hand, according to the authors of *The Morning of the Magicians*, "we will find the idea of the mutation of the nation", and he allegedly shared the convictions about the existence of "Higher Unknowns", and, "moreover, Hitler believed that he had personal contacts with the "Higher Ones.. What if Hitler simply read Bulwer-Lytton's novel, or some other similar one, for example, H.G. Wells' *Food of the Gods*?" And in general, the motive of racial mutations, damage or improvement of blood is a common place in almost all racial theories, as well as the idea of Higher Beings, which is generally quite common in world philosophy and literature, and Hitler is by no means an exception here. But on this basis, it is possible to rank the Fuhrer as a secret society only in fantasy novels. The book of Bergier and Povel is, in fact, such a novel, where the fantasy of the authors builds up historical facts and rumors about various kinds of events.

There are many other amusing passages in *The Morning of the Magicians*. For example, it is alleged that the work on fine-tuning the V-2 rockets at the Peenemünde test site "was interrupted for a while ... while it was checked how the "eternal ice" would react in space and whether violence over the stratosphere would be reflected in any disasters on earth. And then Hitler seemed to have a vision that either the missiles would certainly fail

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in flight, or the offended sky will take revenge on Reihu and his leader.

The events of the Second World War are also often interpreted in a mystical spirit. In the "Morning of the Magi" we read: "Three SS climbers hoisted on Elbrus, the sacred mountain of the Aryans, a banner with a swastika blessed by the ritual of the "Black Order ". It was a magic spell. It marked the beginning of a new era, a new cycle. Now the climate will be conquered, and the fire will tame the ice for millennia." The fact that everything written here is complete nonsense, the reader will understand if he takes into account that the German soldiers and officers who climbed Elbrus on August 21, 1942, had nothing to do with the KSS, but belonged to the 1st and 4th mountain -infantry divisions (four Red Army deserters served as guides), and the banner that they hoisted on top was the usual red and white German military

a banner with a black swastika and an Iron Cross, and, given the rather tense and jealous relations between the army and the SS, none of the SS members even thought to consecrate it. By the way, in addition to the banner, at the peak of Elbrus they left standards with the emblems of two divisions - edelweiss and gentian. But at the same time, both divisions had only numbers, but did not have any special names, like "Edelweiss". Therefore, when we write in books, including historical ones, and sing in songs about the soldiers of the Edelweiss division, this is just a beautiful poetic myth. There was certainly a symbolic moment in this mountaineering achievement, but it had nothing to do with Carian mysticism. A flag with a swastika on the highest mountain peak in Europe was supposed to personify the coming triumph

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The Third Reich was a good propaganda occasion, on the occasion of which the collaborationist newspapers could write: "The German military banner proudly flies over Elbrus - a symbol of the freedom of peoples." From the same category, myths that Hitler captured Norway only so that, according to the precepts of the Thule society, the banner with the swastika fluttered over the northernmost point of Europe and to create a springboard for the capture of Iceland, where, according to one of the legends, the cup is kept Holy Grail and sacred "eternal ice". Both Norway and Iceland, according to various legends, were the ancestral home of the Germans - the sacred land of Thule. However, no sane person doubts that Hitler seized Norway for strategic reasons - to guarantee the vital supplies of iron ore from Sweden for the Reich. And the German landing in Norway was only a few days ahead of the Anglo-French one, which had precisely the goal of cutting off Germany from the Swedish mines.

And here is how amusingly the authors of The Morning of the Magicians explain Hitler's desire to fight to the end, even in an obviously hopeless situation: "Since 1943, Hitler continued, without the slightest hope of success, a desperate, senseless struggle in an obviously suicidal war. Why? He and the Nazi leaders were waiting for the flood predicted by the Gorbigerians (followers of Hans Gorbiger, the author of the theory of "eternal ice", which is present in space and has a decisive influence on earthly events. - B.S.). If it was not possible to seize the situation with human forces, then for Hitler it remained possible to call the Court of the gods. The flood will be the punishment

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of all mankind. Night will fall on the globe, everything will drown in future waves under an icy hail.

Sounds nice. The only problem is that there is no evidence that Hitler knew Gorbiger or accepted his teachings, or that he even spoke to any of his interlocutors about the coming flood. Although Gorbigerian thesis about "eternal ice" in the public mind is firmly associated with the racial doctrine of the National Socialists. He is most talentedly parodied in the novel "Ice" by the great post-modernist writer Vladimir Sorokin.

Although, if Hitler was really familiar with Gorbiger's teachings, he should have been impressed by his main thesis that only the prophet-messiah creates true science, while Western science produces only epigones. However, the Fuhrer was a realist enough to entrust the development of new types of weapons to specialists - scientists and designers.

The Fuhrer had to fight even in hopeless conditions because there was no other way out anyway. Attempts to conclude a separate peace both in the East and in the West did not lead to any serious negotiations. No one was going to put up with Hitler. The only hope remained that the Western allies would quarrel with Stalin and one of the parties would express readiness to make peace with Germany in order to. along with it to fall on a former ally. Hope was illusory, and Hitler, in general, understood this. But he was not going to capitulate and continued the fight until the Soviet tanks appeared at the walls of the Reich Chancellery.

As is well known, the main institution called upon to develop the scientific foundations of racial

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trine, or, more simply, using the facts of anthropology, history and culture to substantiate the idea of the superiority of the German race, became the Ahnenerbe society ("Non-German Society for the Study of Ancient Germanic History and Heritage of Ancestors"). It was founded in 1933 by Professor Friedrich Hielscher, an ardent admirer of German pagan cults. The society studied the traditions and monuments of the ancient "Nordic" race. "Ahnenerbe" was patronized by Himmler himself. In 1957, the society was included in the SS, and from January 1, 1939, scientific activity



The 50 Ahnenerbe institutes were led by Professor Wurst, head of the Sanskrit department at the University of Munich. In 1942, the society was incorporated into the personal headquarters of the Reichsfuehrer SS. From the SS, the society was supervised by the secretary-manager, Standartenführer Wolfram Sievers, a student of Hielscher (and, by the way, a participant in the July 20 conspiracy). "Ahnenerbe" dealt with, among other things, occult topics. It also widely practiced archaeological research. All excavations in the Reich were carried out only with the knowledge of "Ane Nerbe".

Through the Ahnenerbe line, the scientist and traveler Ernst Schaeffer became the first German to visit the capital of Tibet, Lhasa, in 1938-1939. From an eight-month expedition, he brought samples of flora and fauna, including "Aryan" horses and "Aryan" bees, photo and film documents, and detailed field diaries. But he didn't find anything out of the ordinary.

About the Ahnenerbe society, Bergier and Povel write that the program of its research was formulated as follows: "Research in the field of the spirit, deeds, heritage of the Indo-Germanic race. Popularization

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research results in an accessible and interesting form for the broad masses of the people. The work is carried out with full observance of scientific methods and scientific precision." Here, strictly speaking, no mysticism is visible. Scientific methods, of course, were heavily corrected for "racial theory" and were intended to provide material for propagating the superiority of the Germanic race. Society also set the goal of propaganda in the field of science. He was required to "contribute to the revival of German cultural and national self-consciousness with the help of very effective, disguised as neutral means of political propaganda in science."

This purpose was to be served, in particular, by the anthropological research of Professor August Hirt, SS Hauptsturmführer, for whose collection at the University of Strasbourg the skulls of Jews were supplied from the death camps. Experiments were also carried out on the prisoners of the concentration camps to study heredity and to inoculate them artificially with a number of infectious diseases, in particular jaundice and typhus. This, probably, in addition to the practical goal of combating jaundice, from which German soldiers suffered severely in southern Russia,

was supposed to help breed a new type of superhuman, resistant to infectious diseases. Sterilization experiments were also carried out, the results of which were supposed to be used to prevent the reproduction of "lower races". There were also purely practical experiments on accelerating blood clotting after injuries. For this purpose, the prisoners were inflicted with gunshot wounds. In what way was tested created in the laboratories of "Ahnenerbe"

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new medicine. Hirt went missing in 1944, and the head of the Ahnenerbe, Wolfram Sievers, was hanged for all these "scientific research" by the verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal in 1948. I note that the NKVD tested the effects of poison on prisoners back in 1938, while in Germany experiments on people were conducted only from 1942. The priority here rightly belongs to the country of the Soviets, but no one judged its leaders in Nuremberg.

As the English researcher Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke rightly notes, "Hitler's indifference to ideas concerning ancient German institutions and traditions was also reflected in the development of the Nazi Party under his leadership ... There is no evidence that Hitler attended The Thule Society... Johannes Göring's diary of society meetings mentions the presence of other Nazi leaders between 1920 and 1925, but Hitler's name is not there. It is no coincidence that Hitler wrote in Mein Kampf: "A young victorious idea, in any case, will not allow itself to be tied by any considerations other than those of the victory of our cause. National Socialism in principle assumes for itself the right to impose its principles on the entire German nation, without stopping at the frontiers of this or that individual land. For only in this way can we educate the entire German nation in the ideas of National Socialism. Just as the Church does not feel bound by any political boundaries, so the National Socialist idea cannot stop at the boundaries of individual regions of Germany.

The National Socialist doctrine is by no means a weapon of the political interests of the individual states of Germany, but lays claim to unconditional

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new domination over the entire German nation. The National Socialist doctrine claims to determine the destinies of the entire people and to reorganize their whole life anew. That is why the National Socialists cannot reckon with borders that are not created by us, by a policy that we resolutely reject.

The more complete the victory of our ideas, the greater the inner freedom we will be able to grant to everyone.

The ancient Germanic pagan traditions often referred to individual German lands (former states) and, in any case, were considered by Hitler not as a means that could become the key to the victory of National Socialism. At best, it could become an auxiliary tool for propaganda, but it still remained too complicated for mass perception. Hitler, on the other hand, considered any religion primarily as a means for politics, but by no means as an end. The only mystical element that was invariably present in the National Socialist racial doctrine was the consciousness of the superiority of the representatives of the Germanic race over all others and the need to destroy the pernicious "small people", the rational. not amenable to any explanation. As Goodrick-Clark emphasized, according to the views of the Nazis, "ONLY the total destruction of the Jews could save the Germans, could allow them to enter the promised land." Goodrick-Clarke is right when he writes about Hitler that "the descriptions of the ancient golden age, the gnostic cultists, and the secret heritage hidden in cultural relics had no power for his political and cultural imagination." It is not for nothing that almost all the works devoted to the popular topic "occult

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roots" of the Third Reich, consist almost exclusively of descriptions and analyzes of the activities of various occult and mystical societies in Germany and Austria at the beginning of the 20th century, but only in rare cases is there a mention of a proven connection with this or that society of Hitler and other Nazi leaders. As for Goodrick-Clarke's opinion that "Hitler was, of course, influenced by millenarian and Manichaeian motifs of Ariosophy", these OT motifs are by no means unique and are not the domain of Ariosophic teachings. Their Fuhrer could draw from a number of other teachings and works of philosophers, the same Nietzsche or Karl Marx.

Here are Hitler's associates, Rudolf Hess and Heinrich Himmler, were much more prone to mysticism,

listened to the predictions of astrologers (as Hitler believed, it was the predictions of astrologers that would push his deputy on a crazy flight to England), and the Reichsführer SS even instructed the mystic and magician Karl Maria Wiligut, a retired colonel in the Austrian army, to develop the rituals of the "Black Order" and appropriated he was given the title of SS Brigadeführer, but then he became disillusioned with his abilities and in 1939 he retired from the old man's rule in a far from honorable retirement, excluding him from the ranks of the SS. And Himmler ordered all members of the SS to be divided into three categories according to the degree of purity of blood: those who can prove their purely Aryan origin from 1650; on those who claim to be racially pure since 1750, and on everyone else.

The myth about the occult roots of National Socialism and the Third Reich remains very tenacious, primarily because the human consciousness refuses to believe that the creators of the greatest war in the history of mankind, the people who killed millions of people

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only because they were of the wrong "racial background" and acted on rational grounds. It is much easier to see in them the conductors of some sinister otherworldly forces.

End of the Third Reich and Hitler's suicide

According to von Below, as early as November 1944, Hitler said more than once that the war was lost, and was only looking for a suitable place to die. So, he refused to leave the "Wolf's Lair", saying that he would not leave East Prussia anywhere, but on November 20 he changed his mind and left Rastenburg forever. If the Führer really died in the Wolfschanz, this would have its own symbolism - the Wolf (and Hitler's party nickname was "Wolf") died in his lair, from where he led the greatest war in history for many years. But Hitler decided to choose another place for himself to die, and at the same time prolong the agony of the Third Reich. The Führer wavered between the Alpine fortress, which included his native Austria, as well as Bavaria, where the National Socialist movement arose and his political career started so powerfully, and Berlin. And in the end he preferred to die not in a remote alpine village, but in the capital of the Reich. Such a death seemed to him the most powerful symbol and testament for future generations of Nazis.

But before that, hope had to flare up and go out again - a counteroffensive in the Ardennes. Hitler hoped, if not to throw the Allies into the Sea, then at least to paralyze the activity of the port of Antwerp, and thereby, to a large extent, the supply of the Allied armies,

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to inflict heavy losses on the British and Americans and revive the mood in England in favor of peace with Germany. However, after initial successes, it was not possible to break through the allied front, almost the entire occupied territory was recaptured from the Germans, and they suffered no less heavy losses than the enemy.

After the failure of the last German offensive in the Ardennes, Hitler lost heart. According to von Below, "he impressed me as a completely desperate person. Never before or since have I seen him in such a state. Hitler said that he would now end his life by suicide, because the last hope for success had collapsed. Onrugalluftwaffe, denounced the "traitors" from the ground forces and shouted something like this: "I know, the war is lost! The superiority of the enemy is too great. I've been betrayed! After July 20, something happened that I thought was impossible. It was precisely those circles that came out against me that benefited the most from National Socialism. I spoiled them all. Here is their thanks! I'd rather put a bullet in my head! I don't have solid people. Such people are only Model and Dietrich. And also Rudel. Who would be my successor! Then Hitler pulled himself together and continued: "We will not capitulate! Never! Let us perish, but we will take the whole world with us! Meanwhile, the territory that remained under the control of the Germans, after the beginning of the general Soviet offensive on the Vistula, began to shrink catastrophically under pressure from the east, west and south.

Contrary to popular belief, the fortifications in eastern Germany were outdated and could not hold back the advance of the modern army. Therefore, there was no chance to defend Berlin from the east

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from the advancing multi-million Red Army for any length of time. Nikolaus von Below testifies: "In May 1938, Hitler was inspecting the line of fortifications intended to protect the eastern border of Germany between the Oder and the Warta. He was accompanied by Brauchitsch and the inspector of engineer troops, General Förster. Hitler conducted the inspection very carefully and interestedly. His silence when walking around objects had a depressing effect. They are all outdated. Above ground dugout towers were armed only with machine guns. This will not stop the tanks." After that, the Fuhrer sharply scolded the leadership of the ground forces, but the world war that began soon did not allow any significant strengthening of the Reich's borders both in the east and in the west.

On January 30, 1945, speaking with a radio address on the 12th anniversary of coming to power, Hitler no longer doubted that the end was near. But all the same, he tried to assure the Wehrmacht and the people that victory would be ours, looking for completely irrational arguments to substantiate this thesis that inspired great doubts, because there was no longer any possibility to justify it rationally. The Fuhrer said: "Once I chose my path - against the whole hostile world, according to my inner call, and walked along this path to the final victory, being unknown and nameless; it was often said with the hope that I was dead, but invariably I won. My life today is absolutely predetermined by the duties entrusted to me.

All of them together make one: to work for my people and fight for them. Only the One who called me can free me from this debt. It was in the hands of Providence to kill me with a bomb that exploded

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on July 20, one and a half meters away, and thus put an end to my life, my labors. The Almighty protected me that day, and I consider this a new confirmation of the task entrusted to me.

In the coming years, I also intend to continue on this path, uncompromisingly serving the interests of my people, heedless of all threats and dangers, inspired by the holy conviction that Almighty God will not leave the one who throughout his life wanted nothing but to save his people from a fate they did not deserve.

Now I call on all Germany, and especially my old friends in arms and all the soldiers, to strengthen their forces with an even more powerful spirit of resistance, until we again - as we did before - put on the graves of those who died in this improbable struggle a wreath with the inscription: "And yet we won."

Therefore, I hope that every German will do his duty to the end and that he will be ready to make any sacrifice that is asked of him; I count on every German who is able to fight, completely forgetting about his own safety; I call on the sick, the weak, and all those unfit for military service to work with their last strength; I expect that the townspeople will forge weapons, and the peasants - to supply the soldiers and workers with bread, limiting themselves; I hope that all women and girls will continue to support this struggle with the utmost fanaticism."

In the last two or three weeks of the war, the generals of the Wehrmacht were thinking more not about how to defend Berlin, but about how to save more of their troops from the terrible, as it seemed to them not without reason, Soviet captivity, by surrendering to the Western allies. Berlin before

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was set by them as a giant trap, since, based on the situation that had developed by mid-April, the capital of the Reich would most likely be surrounded by the Red Army, and non-Anglo-American troops, and it would be almost impossible to break out of the ring. On April 15, the day before the start of the Soviet offensive on Berlin, the commander of the Vistula Army Group, defending on the Oder, Colonel-General Gottgart Heinrici told Speer: "I ordered that not a single bridge be blown up in Berlin, since around the city there will be no fights at all. If the Russians break through to Berlin, our troops concentrated on the flanks will withdraw to the north and south. And to the north of Berlin we will run into an extensive system of canals. Speer immediately guessed: "So Berlin won't last long?" "In any case, his garrison will not be able to offer any strong resistance," the minister general assured. Heinrici understood that the Soviet troops would storm Berlin especially stubbornly. And he also guessed that Hitler would not leave Berlin and would order to defend the capital of the Reich to the last, in order to die with his soldiers. This means that Berlin will turn into a grandiose mousetrap from which there will be no way out. Therefore, it is better not to send the bulk of the troops of the army group there. Let them

it is better to surrender to the British and Americans to the north of IKGU from the capital.

Von Below recalled how Field Marshal Kesselring visited Hitler for the last time on April 12, 1945: "He apparently wanted to get first-hand information. The Führer left no doubt that he himself had not yet surrendered. Kesselring did not let himself be misled and, probably, after this visit, he left with the intention of acting at his own discretion (i.e., trying to save as

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as many German troops as possible in the southern half of the Reich from Soviet captivity. - B.S.). Outwardly, he still behaved with his usual optimism, for he always believed that by doing so he inspires courage in his people even in the most gloomy situation.

On April 16, 1945, Hitler addressed the soldiers of the Eastern Front for the last time. He argued: "Berlin will remain German! Vienna will again not be German, and Europe will never become Russian!" Pointing to Roosevelt's death, Hitler concluded: "At the moment 'when fate itself has removed the greatest criminal of all time from the face of the earth, the question of a turn in the course of this war is being decided.'" However, the expectation that the miracle that saved Frederick the Great after death would be repeated Empress Elizaveta Petrovna, did not justify. German troops were irresistibly rushing west to surrender to the Allies. Hitler had the idea to withdraw from the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War in order to force the soldiers of the Western Front to fight more stubbornly. After all, in this case, the conditions of captivity for them east and west could become the same if the western allies, in response to Hitler's reprisals against American and British prisoners, would also withdraw from the Geneva Convention. However, the generals persuaded the Führer to abandon this step, since it threatened the complete collapse of the Western front and mass surrender in the hope of having time to do this before the Allies announce that the Geneva Convention does not apply to German

sky prisoners.

On April 19, 1945, Hitler was visited by Hans Rudel, whom the Führer, the only one in the entire war, awarded with a knight's cross with golden oak leaves.

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yams, swords and diamonds. He destroyed 552 Soviet tanks and the battleship Marat during the war, and arrived at Headquarters with a poorly healed stump. Even having lost his leg in February 45th, Rudel, without waiting for the wound to heal, continued to make sorties. Hitler tried in vain to persuade the ace to take command of all jet aircraft and to cover the communications of Wenck's army. Rudel excused himself by saying that he had not previously commanded jet aircraft and did not believe that they would be able to perform this task: enemy bombers would easily disable them, since they would have to be based on the few airfields with a long runway. Yes, and 180 jet fighters and bombers cannot cope with the thousands of Allied air armadas. Rudel recalled: "The Supreme Commander-in-Chief enters almost at 11 o'clock in the evening. I foresaw the subject of the conversation, this appointment, which was discussed earlier. The hallmark of the Fuhrer is to beat around the bush and never speak directly about the matter. And this evening he begins with a half-hour lecture explaining the decisive importance of the development of technology, in which we have always led the world, an advantage that we must now use to the limit and thus turn the tide and achieve victory. He tells me that the whole world is afraid of German science and technology, and shows me some intelligence reports that describe the steps taken by the Allies to steal our technical achievements and our scientists. Every time I listen to him, I am amazed by his memory for numbers and his special knowledge of technical matters. At the same time, I had already flown more than six thousand hours, and with my extensive practical

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From experience I know almost everything about the various types of aircraft he talks about, but there is nothing that he cannot talk about with unique simplicity and about which he does not make appropriate suggestions for modification. Over the past three or four months, his physical condition has deteriorated. His eyes are shining brightly. Oberst von Below tells me that in the last eight weeks Hitler has hardly slept, one meeting after another. His hand is shaking, this is from an attempt on his life, July 20. During a long discussion that evening, I notice, moreover, that he tends to repeat the same thing, which he has never done before, although his words are well thought out and full of determination.

Another Rudel testified: "This time I am not ready to take responsibility and stubbornly refuse. And again I am convinced that any person whom Hitler considers selflessly serving the interests of the common cause has the right to freely express his point of view and can help the Fuehrer to reconsider his position. On the other hand, Hitler loses confidence in those people who constantly disappointed and misled him.

He disagrees with my "two pots" theory because he doesn't believe it can predict how events will unfold. He bases his opinion on the firm promise given to him by the sector commanders that they will not retreat from their positions now held on the Elbe, Oder, Neisse and the Sudetenland. I make the remark that I trust the German soldier, who is now showing special courage, since he is fighting on German soil, but if the Russians gather all their forces for

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a concentrated strike at one key point, they will be able to break through the breeze in our positions and then the two fronts will unite.

On April 20, 1945, Hitler's last birthday, many generals and officials asked him to leave Berlin and go to Berchtesgaden. Keitel recalled: "I only told him: that Providence had so graciously spared him during the assassination attempt on July 20, and that today, on his birthday, in these most serious days, when the existence of the Third Reich he created is threatened by the greatest danger, he still holds the leadership in his hands, gives us confidence that he will make the necessary decisions. My opinion: he must act without waiting for the capital of the Reich to become a battlefield. I wanted to continue, but he interrupted me: "Keitel, I know what I want, I will fight in front of Berlin, in it or behind it

Likewise, Hitler's secretary Troidel Junge described the Fuehrer's 56th birthday: "The most important dignitaries of the Reich came to congratulate him; they asked Hitler to leave Berlin and go to Army Group South in Bavaria. He categorically refused.

At that time I was with other secretaries in a small office. The Fuehrer's face was deathly pale. He was silent. He looked like a dead man. We dared to ask him again, really

whether he really wants to stay in Berlin. "Of course I won't leave! - he said. "I must hasten the denouement or perish." Recently, he often recalled the Battle of Kunersdorf (in which in 1759 Friedrich the Great was defeated by Russian and Austrian troops - by the way, we are often forgotten about the participation of the Austrians in it - but was saved from collapse by death

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Empress Elizabeth and the change in the course of Russian politics  
under Peter Sh. - B.S.).

We were dumbfounded. For the first time he spoke in a  
peremptory tone, saying aloud the truth that we had long guessed: he  
no longer believed in victory. He lost his faith...

"In recent days, I have often met the Fuhrer, wandering like a ghost  
through the dark labyrinths of the bunker, silently crossing the  
corridors, entering the rooms. At times I wondered why he didn't put  
an end to all this. Now it was clear that nothing could be saved. But at  
the same time, the thought of suicide was repulsive. The first soldier  
of the Reich commits suicide while children fight outside the walls of the  
capital. I decided to ask him a question: "My Fuhrer, don't you think  
that the German people are waiting for you to stand at the head of the troops  
and fall in battle? "My hands are shaking, I can hardly hold a gun. If I get  
hurt, none of the soldiers will finish me. I don't want to fall into the hands  
of the Russians." He spoke right. His hand trembled as he raised  
the spoon to his mouth; he struggled to get up from his chair; when he  
walked, his legs dragged heavily on the floor.

I am still amazed at the calm fatalism with which we discussed the  
most convenient and least painful methods of suicide over meals.

"The surest way," said Hitler, "is to put the barrel of a pistol in your  
mouth and pull the trigger. The skull shatters into pieces, and death  
occurs instantly. Eva Braun was horrified. "I want my body to be beautiful,"  
she protested, "I'd rather be poisoned." She took from the pocket of her  
elegant dress a small capsule of yellow copper. It was cyanide. "It hurts?"  
she asked. "I am so afraid of a long and painful agony. I accepted

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decision to die, but I want it to be at least without torment. Hitler explained to her that death from cyanide is painless. "She comes in a few minutes. The nervous and respiratory systems are immediately paralyzed." This explanation prompted Frau Christian and myself to ask the Führer for one of these capsules. Heinrich Himmler, Minister of the Interior and head of the Gestapo, had just brought in a few dozen. "Here is a capsule for you, Frau Junge," Hitler told me. "Unfortunately, I can't offer you anything better as a parting gift."

On April 21, 1945, at a meeting in the Reich Chancellery, Hitler finally announced his irrevocable decision to remain in besieged Berlin. Here is how E. Kempka describes this meeting: "At a meeting discussing the situation on the fronts, Hitler's closest collaborators, led by Keitel, Jodl and Bormann, again insisted that Hitler use prepared planes and go with his headquarters to Ober Salzberg . There he will be safe, and from there he will be able to direct the military operations in this last battle better than from Berlin, surrounded by Russians.

Adolf Hitler rejected these proposals. He declared that, whatever the course of events, he would not leave the capital of the Reich. He has stood his ground all the time since he was in Berlin. By his order, all the aircraft at our disposal were to be prepared for the evacuation of women and children from Berlin. He offered all his employees the right to leave Berlin if they so desired.

Nikolaus von Below dates the Führer's final decision to remain in Berlin to April 22 and

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calls him with the revealed unwillingness of the command of the ground forces to defend the capital of the Reich: "On April 22, Keitel and Jodl began to strongly insist that Hitler leave Berlin. But he was still indecisive, until a quarrel arose with the ground forces during the report of the situation. The reports of the commanders of the armies fighting for Berlin contradicted each other. It seemed that each of them was fighting on his own and no organized resistance was possible. General Krebs could not explain this contradiction. It was not clear what this was: a consequence of the Russian superiority in forces, or the collapse of their own command? As if one could still be separated from the other! Hitler went into extreme agitation

waiting. He ordered everyone present, including Keitel, Jodl, Krebs and Burgdorf, to leave the premises, and then a stream of abuse poured out of his mouth against the command of the ground forces and the "old traitors" from their ranks. I sat outside the door in the next room and heard almost every word. That was a terrible half an hour. After this outburst of rage, the end became clear to Hitler. The Fuhrer ordered Keitel and Jodl to go to Dönitz and fight alongside him. He himself will remain in Berlin and commit suicide by suicide.

Keitel and Jodl reported their departure and headed for Northern Germany. Schaub was instructed to destroy the contents of a personal safe in the Fuhrer's bunker, and then fly to Berchtesgaden to burn his private papers on the Obersalzberg.

Hitler's entourage continued to shrink almost every hour. It was noticeable that everyone was busy

real thoughts."

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As for the exact date when Hitler finally decided not to leave Berlin, the diary of Martin Bormann makes it clear. Here are his notes: "Sunday 22 April: 'The Fuhrer remains in Berlin.'

On April 23, Keitel once again tried to persuade Hitler to leave Berlin. He recalled: "After the report on the situation, I asked the Fuhrer for a conversation in the presence of Jodl. Should be accepted

some solution: either an offer of surrender before Berlin becomes a battlefield for every house, or a flight at night to Berchtesgaden, from there immediately start negotiations! .. I was left alone with the Fuhrer, since Jodl was called to the telephone. As was often the case, Hitler did not let me utter even two words. He said something like this: "I know in advance what you want to say: now the final decision must be made! I have already made this decision: I will not leave Berlin; I will defend the city to the last. Or I will order this battle to be waged for the hundred face of the Reich - let only Venks take the Americans from my throat and drive them beyond the Elbe! — or together with my soldiers I will die in Berlin, I will fall in battle for the symbol of the Reich.

I said, "This is crazy! In such a situation, I must demand your departure this very night to Berchtesgaden to ensure the leadership of the Reich and the Wehrmacht; in Berlin, if the connection is cut off, which can happen any minute, it is impossible to do it.

The Fuhrer declared: "There is nothing to prevent you from flying immediately to Berchtesgaden. I even order you to do it! But I myself will stay in Berlin! An hour ago I informed the German people and the capital of the Reich about this by radio. I can't get away from this."

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And Hitler also urged Keitel: "It is my presence in Berlin that will induce the troops to fight to the last and keep the population from panic. Unfortunately, this is a necessary prerequisite for the success of the already launched operations to deblockade Berlin and successful battles for the city. Only one trust in me gives any chance at all for still possible success, and therefore I will personally carry this fight for Berlin to the end! East Prussia was held only as long as my headquarters was still in Rastenburg, and when I could no longer maintain the morale of the troops with my personal presence, the front there was broken. This will happen with Berlin, and therefore I will not change my decision and I will not break my promise to the army and the population.

By that time, Hitler had no doubt that there would be no more luck for the Wehrmacht and that Berlin would fall within a week or two. According to the Chief of the General Staff of the Luftwaffe, General Karl Kohler, who was in the Reich Chancellery, on April 22, the Fuhrer ordered all his personal papers to be burned and was clearly preparing for death. So the words about "successful" battles and "chances for still possible success" were intended only to encourage the generals in order to prevent premature capitulation. Hitler wanted to die at the head of the still fighting Berlin and the Wehrmacht.

As early as April 25, 1945, Hitler declared: "It would be ... a thousand times more cowardly to commit suicide in Ober Salzberg (residence in the Alpine Fortress. - B.S.) than to die here." A day earlier, he stated: "I should have made this most important decision in my life back in November 1944 (when the Allied troops from the west and east reached the borders of Germany. - B.S.) and not leave the headquarters in Eastern

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Noah Army. - B.S.).

On April 26, 1945, the last aircraft landed in Berlin. Field Marshal of the Luftwaffe Robert Ritter von Greim and pilot Hannah Reich, who arrived on it, suggested that Hitler flee to the Alpine Fortress. But the Fuhrer chose to die in the capital of the Reich. He just appointed Greim as commander-in-chief of the Luftwaffe instead of Goering. Actually, since the end of September 1944, Hitler wanted to make Greim the actual commander-in-chief of the Luftwaffe, leaving Goering only honorary representative functions.

According to Greim's mistress Hannah Reich, Hitler asked Greim: "Do you know why I called you?" "No, my Fuhrer," the freshly baked field marshal answered in surprise. "Because," Hitler declared, "Hermann Goering betrayed and left both me and his homeland. Behind my back, he established contact with the enemy. His actions were a sign of cowardice. And contrary to my order, he fled to Berchtesgaden. From there he gave me an irreverent telegram. He said that I had once appointed him as my successor and that now, since I could no longer govern from Berlin, he was ready to govern instead of me from Berchtesgaden. He ended the telegram by stating that if he did not receive an answer from me by 9.30 today by telegraph, he would consider my answer positive. Reich claimed that at that moment there were tears in Hitler's eyes. He lowered his head, his face was deathly pale, and when he handed over the text of Goering's telegram to Greim, the sheet of paper literally trembled in his shaking hands.

Then Hitler with great difficulty mastered the trembling in his face and continued: "Ultimatum! Sharp ulti

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matum!! Now there is nothing left. Nothing got past me. No one remained faithful to the end, no one's honor stood. There are no such disappointments that would not have fallen to my lot; there are no betrayals that I have not experienced, and now another one that is worth all the others. Nothing left. All evil is already gone to me

lali."

But earlier Hitler spoke about Goering to his adjutant from the Luftwaffe von Below: "This is a man of iron and merciless. In the most difficult times of crisis, Goering has always been the right person in the right place. And his vanity and craving for luxury - all this is ostentatious and immediately, they say, falls off

him when he is needed. But at the same time, he often reprimanded the Reichsmarshal for the fact that, having given orders, he did not control their execution.

Von Below recalled: "I took the text of the telegram literally and believed that Goering really believed that it was still possible to negotiate with the leadership of the West. Hitler called it utopian." Hitler ordered Göring to be kept under "even arrest" at the Obersalzberg. Göring was also expelled from the NSDAP.

That same evening, Hitler said to Hannah Reitsch as he handed her and Greim ampoules of poison: "Hannah, you are one of those who want to die with me. Everyone has such an ampoule with poison. I don't want any of us to fall alive into the hands of the Russians, and I don't want them to find our corpses. Each is responsible for destroying his body so that nothing is left for identification. Eva, let's burn our bodies. Find your own way." This confession contains an important detail. Hitler was going to order the burning of his corpse and Eva Braun by no means in order to perform the ancient Germanic pagan funeral

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ritual, but only to exclude the identification of the corpse by the winners and the possible mockery of the remains. Thus, even in the last days and hours of his life, Hitler's actions were quite rational and by no means mystical.

Hannah Reitsch realized that Hitler no longer believed in victory and was determined to commit suicide. She tried for the last time, with tears in her eyes, to dissuade Hitler from this step: "My Fuehrer, why are you here? Why are you depriving Germany of your life? If it were known that you were staying in Berlin to the end, the people would be horrified. "The Fuehrer must live so that Germany can live," that is what the people say. Save yourself, my Fuhrer, this is the wish of every German."

But Hitler resolutely objected: "No, Hannah, if I die, it will be death for the honor of the country, since I, as a soldier, must obey my own order, according to which I must defend Berlin to the end. My dear girl, I didn't think about it. I firmly believed that Berlin would be saved on the banks of the Oder. We sent everything we had to hold this position. Believe me, when our greatest efforts came to nothing, I was more horrified than anyone else. Then when it started



the encirclement of the city, the realization that three million of my compatriots still remained in Berlin, made me stay to protect them. By staying here, I believed that all the German troops would follow my example and come to save the city. I hoped that they would make superhuman efforts to save me and thereby save three million of their compatriots. But, my Hannah, I still have hope. General Wenck's army is coming from the south. He must and he

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drive the Russians far enough to save our people. Then we'll get back on our feet."

Hanna Reich did not believe Hitler here, rightly suspecting that he was only trying to console her. Later, during interrogation, she testified: "One could almost believe that he himself believed in what he said ... He walked around the room with fast, unsteady and large steps, clasping his hands behind his back, and his head was bobbing up and down with each step. . Although his words expressed hope, it was clear from his face that war was the law.

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Hitler did not believe that Wenck would save him, just as he had not previously believed that the front on the Oder would stand, although, of course, he did not tell the soldiers this. Rach and Greim decided that when it was all over, they would drink the contents of the am pool, and then blow themselves up with grenades. But of the two lovers, only Robert did so, limiting himself to poison. Hanna, on the other hand, survived and told the American investigators everything.

Goebbels, shocked by the betrayal of Goering, according to Reich, also firmly decided to commit suicide. He stated: "We show the world how people die for their honor, and our death will be an eternal example to all Germans, friends and foes alike. Someday the whole world will admit that we did the right thing, that we thought to protect the world from Bolshevism with our lives. It will be forever inscribed in history ... We will die for the glory of the Reich, so that the name of Germany will live on for centuries. And Goebbels' wife Magda told Reich: "My dear Hannah, when the end comes, you must help ME, if I am not strong enough, with the children. You must help me in leaving this life. They belong to the Gretem Reich and the Fuhrer. If both of them are gone, then there will be no place for children on earth. You must help me. What I fear most is that

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At the last moment, I won't have enough strength. " To kill six of their own children, the Goebbels couple used the services of a personal doctor.

A. Eva Braun constantly repeated: "Poor, poor Adolf, everyone left him, everyone changed him. Better let ten thousand others die than he be lost to Germany." at

On April 27, Hitler told von Below: "I have decided to give the commandant of Berlin the order to break through. I myself will stay here and die in the very place where I worked for many years of my life. But my headquarters must take part in the breakthrough. The most important thing for me is that Bormann and Goebbels get out of here alive." Whereas earlier Hitler insisted that people from his circle, whom he trusted, stay with him to the end, now this original intention of his has completely changed.

According to Belov, he asked the Führer whether, given the situation in Berlin, he believed that there was still some chance of a breakthrough. He replied, "I believe the situation is different now. The Western Allies will no longer insist, as in Casablanca, on unconditional surrender. From the foreign press of recent weeks it is too obvious that the conference at Yalta was a disappointment for America and England. Stalin puts forward demands that the Western allies concede against their will only because they fear that he will go his own way. I have the impression that the Big Three left Yalta were not friends at all. Besides, Roosevelt died. Besides, Churchill never liked Russians. He will be interested in the fact that the Russians do not go too far into Germany. But the next day, having learned that Wenck had failed to approach Berlin, Hitler made a breakthrough

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canceled as completely unpromising. Only on the day of his suicide did he again allow those remaining in the Reich Chancellery to break out of Berlin.

Simultaneously with Greim, Hans Rudel received an order from Hitler to fly to Berlin. But his plane on the night of April 28 was able to land only in the area

Rechlin. The only holder of the knight's cross with golden oak leaves, swords and a diamond recalled: "At 3 o'clock in the morning I arrive in Rechlin, the control room of which is equipped with radio communications. With this help I manage to contact Berlin. Colonel von Below tells me that I no longer need to go to Berlin, since a field marshal has been appointed to the place assigned to me. Ritter von Greim, who was contacted in time, moreover, he says that it is no longer possible to land in Berlin. I answer:

"In the morning I will land on the Stuk (dive bomber. - B.S.) on this highway. I think it can still be done on a lighter aircraft. In addition, it seems to me important to get the Fuhrer out of this dangerous place, so that he does not lose control of the situation as a whole.

Von Below asks me not to hang up while he makes inquiries. He returns to the phone and says:

The Fuhrer has made his final decision. He decided that Berlin must be held to the last and therefore could not leave the capital, the situation in which. looks critical. He is sure that if he leaves the city, the troops holding him will be sure that he is leaving Berlin to its fate, and will conclude that any resistance is useless. Therefore, the Fuhrer intends to stay in the city. You shouldn't try to get into the city, but you should

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We must immediately return to Sudetenland to provide support for the army of Field Marshal Schörner, who is ordered to strike in the direction of Berlin.

Why did Hitler choose to stay in Berlin rather than leave before the Reich capital was surrounded, or with the last plane of the last Field Marshal of the Luftwaffe, which left completely blockaded Berlin on April 29, the day before the Fuhrer's suicide? Hitler explained this in his political testament thus: "After six years of struggle, which, despite all the failures, will go down in history as the most glorious and courageous expression of the vitality of the German people, I cannot tear myself away from the city that is the capital of the Reich. Since our forces are too weak to continue to withstand the onslaught of the enemy precisely here, and our own resistance is gradually depreciating just as

prisoners, as well as spineless subjects, I would like to remain in this city and share the fate with those millions who have already suffered death. Besides, I don't want to fall into the hands of the enemies, who, on the basis of the incited masses, need a new spectacle staged by the Jews.

Therefore, I decided to stay in Berlin and here, of my own free will, choose death at the moment when I see that the residence of the Fuhrer and Reich Chancellor can no longer be held. I die with a joyful heart, knowing about the immeasurable deeds and accomplishments of our soldiers at the front, our women in the rear, our peasants and workers, as well as the unparalleled participation in all this of the youth that bears my name.

That I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of them is as self-evident as my desire that they should by no means cease.

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they fought, but everywhere they continued to wage it against the enemies of the fatherland, remaining true to the precepts of the great Clausewitz. From these sacrifices of our soldiers and from my own connection with them until my death in German history, in one way or another, but one day, the sowing of a radiant revival of the National Socialist movement will come up, and thereby the realization of a truly popular community.

On April 28, by order of Hitler, Heinirici was removed from command for his unwillingness to fight, but this did not affect the course of events. Most of the divisions of Army Group Vistula managed to surrender to the Western Allies. On the same day, Keitel reported: "The offensive of the 9th and 12th armies bogged down due to the strong counteroffensive of the Russians; further offensive is no longer possible. The army group of SS General Steiner has not yet arrived." According to Hitler's adjutant Günsche, "After that, it became clear to everyone at headquarters that the fate of Berlin was sealed by this."

Hitler ordered that enough gasoline be provided to burn his and Eva's corpses. Hitler explained to his adjutant Günsche: "I don't want the Russians to put me up in their panopticon after my death." With great difficulty, Kempka managed to get several hundred liters of gasoline from the tanks of wrecked cars for the funeral pyre. The burning lasted from 2:50 pm to 7:00 pm. The charred corpses were buried in a crater at the wall of Kempka's apartment. The prophecy that Hitler spoke came true

to his driver back in 1935, when he was taking him to the Reich Chancellery: "I won't get out of here alive"

Before his death, the Fuhrer announced to the inhabitants of the Reich Chancellery: "In this city, I had the right to give orders. Now I must obey orders"

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'fate. Even if I had the opportunity to save myself, I would not do it. The captain is sinking with his ship."

Von Below stated in his memoirs: "Now, in recent weeks, the 'people', which had endured all trials until now, also began to show signs of weakness. Hitler did not want to admit to himself that the demands of the war had become simply excessive, but fell into primitive Darwinism, which claimed that it was the stronger that would win this fight. The German people, however, turned out to be weaker, and therefore must cease to play a role among the peoples of the whole Earth. Therefore, Hitler was, in his understanding, consistent in demanding the strict implementation of the order "NOT Ron", the purpose of which was to turn Germany into a "scorched earth". The people, who turned out to be weaker, he believed, no longer needed any vital basis: "What is rotten and old, what must fall, must not be supported, but pushed." In the end, Hitler never tired of emphasizing: "The future belongs to the stronger people of the East."

I cannot pinpoint the exact moment of the radical change in Hitler's attitude towards the German people, but both of these tones - praise and curse - still ring in my ears. Each of them at one time expressed his conviction. True, even when the war, from a military point of view, was already lost, after the Ardennes offensive, he still asserted: the people must hold out to the end and follow

him."

Just before his suicide, in the last moments of his life, Hitler allowed those remaining in the Reich Chancellery to break out of Berlin. He said to his valet Linge, when he asked permission to say goodbye to him: "I give the order to break through."

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Surprised, Linge asked: "My Fuhrer, for whom should we break through now?" Hitler explained: "For mud-

The act of examining Hitler's remains, drawn up by Soviet pathologists on May 8-11, 1945, contains a number of obvious errors, which are most likely caused by political reasons - the desire to humiliate Hitler in every possible way even after his death. These errors are as follows: Hitler's height in the act is defined as 165 cm, while in reality the Fuhrer had a height of 175 cm; the act stated that Hitler's left testicle was missing, while all vital medical examinations stated that Hitler had normal genitals, without any deviations; fragments of a glass ampoule were found in the mouth of the corpse, which made it possible to say that Hitler had poisoned himself; but, as Western critics reasonably pointed out, in conditions when the corpse was charred, glass fragments could not survive and inevitably disintegrate.

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would melt. More importantly, analysis of internal organs and blood samples taken from the corpses of Hitler and Eva Braun did not reveal any traces of cyanide compounds. Meanwhile, such compounds were revealed in the analysis of samples of the corpses of Goebbels, his wife, children, General Krebs and the shepherd Blondy. Linge described the situation in Hitler's office immediately after the suicide: "I immediately smelled gunpowder, as happens after a shot ... Together with Bormann, we entered the room ... Hitler was sitting on the sofa to the left. He was dead. Next to him is the dead Eva Braun. On Hitler's right temple there was a gaping gunshot wound the size of a coin, on his cheek there were traces of blood that had flowed down in two streams. There was a pool of blood the size of a plate on the carpet near the sofa. Blood spattered on the wall and on the couch. Hitler's right hand lay

on his knee, palm up. Left - hung along the body. At Hitler's right leg lay a pistol of the Walther system, caliber 7.65 mm, and left - a pistol of the same system, caliber 6.35 mm. Hitler was dressed in his gray military tunic, which had a gold party badge, an Iron Cross 1st class, and a World War I wounded badge that he had worn all his last days. He was wearing a white shirt with a black tie, black slacks, black socks, and black leather low shoes. Eva Braun sat on the couch with her legs crossed. Her light-coloured high-heeled shoes stood on the floor. Her lips were tightly compressed. She poisoned herself with cyanide

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With the help of Bormann... I laid Hitler's body, still warm, on the floor and wrapped it in a blanket... Hitler's body, myself and the SS men from the personal guard Lindloff and Reiser... carried it through the reception room to the emergency exit to the park. Standing in the waiting room of Goebbels, Burg

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Dorf, Krebs, Axmann, Naumann, Günsche and Rattenhuber raised their hands in salute. Then Bormann came out of Hitler's office, followed by Kempka with the body of Eva Braun in her arms. Goebbels, Axmann, Naumann, Ratten Huber, Krebs and Burgdorf followed the body of Hitler to the emergency exit. -

What happened next was described by Hitler's adjutant Ra Günsche: "I ran up to Kempke, took from him the body of Eva Braun, which was not wrapped in a blanket, and carried it to the exit. A characteristic pungent smell of potassium cyanide emanated from Eva Braun... Gitle's wrapped body lay on the ground two meters from the emergency exit. Next to him, on the right side, I laid the body of Eva Braun. At this moment, Bormann bent over Hitler's body, turned the blanket off his face, looked at him for a few seconds and covered him with the blanket again. Shells howled and whistled into the park of the Reich Chancellery and into the bomb shelter. Thick clouds of smoke swept over the torn trees of the park. The Reich Chancellery and adjacent buildings were completely engulfed in flames. Bormann, myself, Linge, Lindloff, Kempka, Schedle, and Reiser took the prepared cans of gasoline and poured the entire 200 liters over the corpses of Hitler and Eva Braun. It took a long time to ignite the gasoline. Matches were blown out by the strong wind caused by the raging fire. I grabbed a hand grenade lying by the door with which to set fire to the gasoline. But I did not manage to pull out the fuse, as Linge set fire to gasoline, throwing burnt paper on the corpses. The corpses of Hitler and Eva Braun were instantly engulfed in flames. Door

the bomb shelters were tightly covered, as the tongues of flame made their way through the remaining gap. Bormann, Goebbels, Axman, Naumann, Krebs, Burgdorf, Günse, Linge, Schedle, Kempka, Racer and Lindloff stood for a few more seconds at the top of the stairs

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tsy and then all silently descended into the bomb shelter. I went to Hitler's office. Everything was still there. On the floor, next to a pool of blood, both of Hitler's pistols were still lying. I picked up and unloaded them. At the same time, I saw that the shot was fired from a 7.65 mm pistol. The second pistol, caliber 6.35 mm, was also loaded and removed from the safety lock. I hid both pistols in my pocket and later handed them over to Axman's adjutant, Lieutenant Haman. I also gave him Hitler's whip. Hamann wanted to keep Hitler's revolvers and whip as relics for the Hitler Youth.

I note that Kempka does not say anything in her memoirs that the characteristic smell of potassium cyanide (the smell of bitter almonds) emanated from Eva Braun, although it was he who carried her body. It is possible that the smell of potassium cyanide in Hitler's office was left from those ampoules that poisoned his beloved shepherd Blondie and other dogs. According to Kempka, after Himmler's betrayal, the Fuhrer doubted whether he had slipped them pacifiers instead of ampoules of potassium cyanide, and ordered that the poison be tested on dogs. And potassium cyanide worked flawlessly. And at the same time, Hitler sent his beloved shepherd dog to the other world so that it would not fall into the hands of the Russians as a trophy. As Kempka noted, "It was hard for him to transfer his beloved dog Blondie to Dr. Giza for this purpose. This shepherd dog accompanied him on many trips and in moments of loneliness was his most faithful friend. And, characteristically, according to the Soviet act of forensic medical examination of the corpse, which was identified as the corpse of Eva Braun, gunshot wounds (one or several) were recorded in the chest area. Therefore, it cannot be ruled out that in fact Eva was not poisoned, but nevertheless

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fired from a 6.35 caliber pistol, which was lying just next to her right hand. In the same way, it cannot be ruled out that the body identified as Hitler's was in fact that of his wife.

another woman. I will add that the cartridge case (or cartridge cases) from the bullet with which the suicide was committed was never found. And, curiously, 17 days before the suicide, Eva asked General Gerhard da Engel how to shoot herself most reliably. The fact that a 6.35 mm pistol was in the hands of Eva Braun at the time of her death is unambiguously confirmed in her memoirs by Kempka with reference to Günsche: "Eva Hitler sat leaning against the back of the sofa next to her husband. She got poisoned. However, she had a pistol in her hand. Her right hand hung down, the pistol lay on the floor nearby.

Strictly speaking, the act of examination of the remains of Hitler was drawn up with a number of obvious errors, which does not give grounds to unambiguously assert that this is the body of the Führer. In particular, the description of his dental bridges does not fully match the x-ray of his teeth and the description in his medical file. However, Hitler's denture itself was complex enough to allow for another such complex design in a corpse that was found in the garden of the Reich Chancellery, but did not belong to Hitler. After all, the whole difference between the Hitlerite prosthesis and the prosthesis described in the act of the Soviet expertise lies in the following. The Führer's upper jaw bridge consisted of 9 gold and porcelain teeth, and was fixed with steel pins on the second right and second left incisors. From the act of the Soviet examination and photographs of the jaw of the alleged corpse of Hitler

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it follows that in the upper jaw of the corpse, artificial teeth were fixed on the first right and second left incisors. However, in the remains found and in Hitler's medical documents, the number and location of artificial teeth coincided, so it can rather be assumed that the differences in the order of their fastening result from errors either in the act of the Soviet examination, or in a drawing that the dental technician made from memory. Therefore, most likely, Hitler's corpse was indeed found in the garden of the Reich Chancellery.

Most likely, during the examination of Hitler's corpse, the experts deliberately tried at any cost, for political purposes, to substantiate the version of poisoning and therefore manipulated the facts. Stalin is not

wanted Hitler to go down in history as an honest soldier's death. He was much more comfortable with the image of a cowardly criminal who had neither the strength nor the determination to shoot himself and who preferred to avoid responsibility with the help of poison. Therefore, in the mouth of the corpse, as Soviet experts claimed, fragments of a glass ampoule were allegedly found, although they could not possibly have survived in the fire on which the corpses were burned, especially considering that they were primarily concerned about the destruction of faces in order to make identification difficult. . In particular, the absence of the left testicle could be included in the examination report in order to reinforce the rumors about the sexual inferiority of the Fuhrer. This circumstance can explain the fact that the fragments of Hitler's skull, on which the exit hole from the bullet was clearly visible, were not removed during the first exhumation. They were discovered only a year later by a new commission that dealt with the

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Kami Fuhrer. But even this find did not allow us to give a definitive answer to the question of how exactly Hitler shot himself: in the temple or in the mouth. But the fact that he shot himself, and did not poison himself, is no longer in doubt today.

However, the debate is still ongoing on whether Hitler shot himself or poisoned himself. Death from poison seems to Hitler's opponents more shameful for the object of their hatred than death from a pistol bullet, so they prefer to paint a picture that caresses the imagination: the Fuhrer in his bunker, cowardly crushing an ampoule, or with rat poison (which is absolutely incredible - from him death is not instantaneous, but painful), or with potassium cyanide. This plot is reflected, for example, in the painting by Kukrynik owls "The End". And some overly sensationalist journalists and historians are still putting forward versions that Hitler nevertheless managed to escape from besieged Berlin. The Fuhrer allegedly sailed away in a submarine to Latin America, and even further - to Antarctica! Or, by some unknown path, he managed to get into Tibet or the Himalayas, into the legendary Shambhala, which Nazi and Soviet theosophists were stubbornly searching for, and where he died peacefully many years after the end of the Second World War. The remains found in the garden of the Reich Chancellery allegedly belong not to Hitler, but to a completely different person. At the same time, they speculate on the identification protocol drawn up by Soviet specialists that is not accurate enough, which really does not give an absolute guarantee that the Reichscans found in the garden

the heavily burned remains of the laria are the bodies of Gitle raiEva Braun. But supporters of the version of the "saved Hitler" have to ignore the testimony of numerous witnesses to the suicide of Fu

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reera, leaving no doubt that Hitler actually committed suicide.

His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, responded to Hitler's death: "Our Fuhrer Adolf Hitler died. The German people bow in the deepest mourning and reverence. He foresaw in advance the terrible danger posed by Bolshevism, and devoted his whole life to fighting it. This struggle and its unshakably straight path were completed by a heroic death in the capital of the German state. His life was devoted to the end to the service for the good of Germany. His fight against Bolshevism had significance for Europe and the entire civilized world. The Fuhrer appointed me as his successor. With full consciousness of responsibility, I assume the leadership of the German people in this difficult hour that decides our fate. My first task is to save the Germans from the advancing Bolshevik enemy. Only for this purpose the struggle continues. And as long as the British and Americans hinder the achievement of this goal, we will be forced to continue to defend ourselves against them and fight them. In this case, the British and Americans continue to fight not in the interests of their peoples, but for the spread of Bolshevism in Europe. Doenitz staked on achieving separate agreements with the Western powers. At the same time, he took into account the mood of the German soldiers and officers, who, not without reason, feared Russian captivity much more than English or American.

Because Stalin concealed from the Western Allies that Hitler's remains had been discovered, there was much speculation that Hitler was still alive. The Fuhrer was found everywhere, from Argentina to Tibet, where he allegedly ended his days. None of the serious

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politicians or journalists in the West did not even pay attention to such versions, since by the autumn

none of the testimony of witnesses who were with the Führer in the Reich Chancellery until the last minutes of his life, it became clear: Hitler is dead. The head of American intelligence, Brian Conrad, summing up the evidence about Hitler's last days, wrote with irony: "The immediate consequence of Hitler's death was a detente in the bunker. The tragic state was replaced by a more cheerful one. For the first time, cigarettes appeared in the bunker (which was always forbidden during Hitler's lifetime). Then they began to draw up plans - not about mass suicide, as it was loyally promised during the life of Hitler, but about mass escape.

As for Nazi No. 3, Martin Bormann, the doubts about his death were so serious that even at the Nuremberg trials, just in case, he was sentenced to hanging in person. Here there was expanse for journalists. From time to time Bormann was found in Paraguay, then in Argentina, then in Brazil, then in Italy. Then, in the early 1970s, the remains of Bormann were discovered in Berlin, which confirmed the testimony of a number of witnesses about his suicide on May 2, 1945, and in 1973 the Frankfurt court officially declared Bormann dead. In 1998, this was also proven by a genetic examination. After that, one of the supporters of the version of the miraculous salvation of Bormann, the British historian Hugh Thomas, hypothesized that the remains of Bormann, who died in Latin America at the end of the 50s, were taken by plane to Berlin and buried in the place indicated by witnesses as the place of the alleged death of the Reichsleiter. Imagine being chartered

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ny transatlantic airliner, which carries the coffin with its attendants, its landing at the West Berlin airport and secret burial. This is not a detective, this is fantasy!

Allied crimes in the anti-Hitler  
coalition against the Germans

Many crimes against the Germans in the last six months of the war. when the war came to German soil, and in the first post-war months were dictated by a sense of revenge. It is no coincidence that the 16-year-old Berliner Dieter Borkowski, on the eve of the inevitable fall of the capital of the Reich, on April 15, 1945, described in his diary a meeting in an electric train with a front-line soldier,

screaming, "Stop whining! We must win this war, we must not lose courage. If others win—Russians, Poles, French, Czechs—and if they do to our people by even one percent what we have done to them for six years in a row, then in a few weeks not a single German will be left alive. This is what someone who has been in the occupied countries for six years is telling you!

The Red Army marked its arrival in Germany with mass rapes. The British historian Anthony Beevor put the number of German women raped by the Red Army at 2 million, based on the phrase of one doctor that after the war two million children were born in Germany as a result of violence committed by Soviet soldiers. However, this figure appears to be exaggerated. All Soviet troops in Europe, taking into account the dead and wounded, numbered 9E-10 million people, of which no more

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5-6 million - in the German lands. Beevor himself emphasizes that many women were raped repeatedly - 10-15 or more times. At the same time, not all military personnel participated in rape, and it is doubtful that almost half of all military personnel who passed through Germany raped German women, as they previously raped the Poles, and their neighbors raped the women of Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Austria, Czechoslovakia... In Hungary, in particular, they preserved the same sad memory of the mass rape of many thousands of Hungarian women by the Red Army. In Germany, however, we should rather talk about hundreds of thousands, and not millions of raped German women. The number of civilians killed was probably in the thousands or tens of thousands. Even together with the victims of the bombing and fighting, as well as those who died during the flight and post-war deportation of Germans from the eastern lands, the number of victims among the German civilian population is, according to various estimates, from 2 to 2.5 million people. , - turns out to be many times lower than the number of victims among the Soviet civilian population. I estimate it, including excess deaths from starvation and disease and Stalinist repressions and deportations, at 16.9 million people. Although, at the same time, there is no doubt, including from the data cited by Beevor, that the number of murders and rapes committed by the Red Army is an order of magnitude greater than the number of the same crimes committed by the Anglo-American troops in Germany. There, these crimes were quickly suppressed by the command, and 66 servicemen were executed for

committed crimes. At the same time, there is not a single piece of evidence, either in Beevor's book or outside it, that in the Red Army at least one soldier was a race.

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shot for raping a German woman (and underage girls were also raped). Things usually didn't go further than the uppk.

By the way, the Germans noticed that Soviet soldiers and officers preferred fat women. Therefore, the wives and daughters of major party functionaries, who alone could maintain relative fatness in the last hungry months of the war, were subjected to violence relatively more often. Their fate even caused a certain gloating on the part of some Germans not from among the "elite".

Beevor notes an important reason for the difference in the behavior of Soviet and Western military personnel: the British and Americans had no shortage of money, food rations, or cigarettes, the universal currency of post-war Germany. They could simply buy the love of German women, just as they had previously bought the love of French women. The Red Army soldiers had neither money, nor surpluses of food and makhorka, and they obtained love by force. Beevor tends to attribute the massive Soviet violence primarily to revenge. I don't think that was the main motive. After all, the book clearly shows that Soviet soldiers and officers raped both Germans and Poles, and Soviet girls, who were looked upon as "German Shepherds". A pretext for violence could always be found. Thus, General Milovan Djilas, one of the closest associates of Josip Broz Tito, and later a well-known dissident, recalled how in 1944 in Serbia, Red Army soldiers raped and killed 111 Serbian women. Djilas just arrived in Moscow to get the guilty punished. But despite Tito's protests, the rapists were not convicted. I emphasize that the Serbs of the Red Army definitely had nothing to avenge for!

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It can be added that the mass rape and murder of Serbian women by the Red Army

called for a visit to Moscow by a Yugoslav delegation. They took revenge not only on opponents, but also on allies. The Red Army men knew that they were expendable for the authorities, they lived one day, and the commanders were afraid to restrain their instincts, fearing to become a victim of soldier's wrath - it would be better if the German women were strong ...

Here's another example. On April 3, 1945, the authorized representative of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR for repatriation F.I. Golikov reported to G.M. Malenkov about the crimes of the fighters and commanders of the Zemland group of troops in East Prussia: "On February 4, the deputy for the combat unit, the commander of the 298th ap 192th division, Major Slyunyaev, and the commander of the division of the same regiment, Major Mubarakov, during the selection of the site method for the command post of the division, found in the barracks of the master's yard 8 men and one woman. The latter, who spoke Russian well, said that she was a Latvian who had been forcibly driven away from near Riga, and that the men were French.

In the evening, Slyunyaev and Mubarakov organized a drink and invited them to their dugout. The drunk Major Slyunyaev took the Red Army men Chavkin and Romanov, searched the French, confiscated valuables, and ordered them to be shot. The Red Army soldiers opened fire from machine guns, and Slyunyaev from a pistol. Returning to the dugout, all the indicated servicemen raped the Latvian woman in turn.

On February 5, three corpses of the French were found in the barracks, and the remaining five people, apparently, survived and fled.

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Fearing that the woman would report what had happened, Major Mubarakov ordered to shoot her too, which was carried out by the Red Army soldier Chavkin.

On March 12, majors Slyunyaev and Mubarakov were sentenced to 10 years, demoted to privates and sent to a penal battalion. Red Army soldiers Chavkin and Romanov were sent to a penal company by order of the division commander.

In the same East Prussia, the writer Lev Kopelev, in 1945 a special propagandist major, and later a member of the dissident movement, also observed terrible things. Here is just one of his testimonies: "Several Russian girls who were driven to Germany worked as waitresses in our headquarters casino. One of them, the most beautiful, was carrying a bucket of soup. Several drunken soldiers saw her: "Gop-la, German, bitch" - and a burst from the machine gun

cross of the back. She died at the same hour. She cried: why, why? The order of Marshal Rokossovsky was read out: execution for robbery, rape, murder of civilians. Most of the Red Army soldiers for the first time saw a life better than what they knew at home. It was a kind of shock, often provoking the wildest antics towards civilians.

If the senior officers and the Red Army soldiers subordinate to them dealt so harshly with the French ally and the Latvian compatriot, whose only fault was that they were driven to work in Germany, one can imagine what the German civilian population itself had to endure from them. . It is not surprising that the Germans preferred to surrender to the British and Americans.

And what is characteristic, the killer officers were not shot, but only sent to the penalty hour

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ty. Since there were only less than two months left to fight (and even less in East Prussia), they had a high chance of surviving.

If the murders and rapes of peaceful German and other foreign citizens could be attributed to spontaneous manifestations of revenge and the release of accumulated aggression, then there were cases of organized terror against the Germans, sanctioned from Moscow. Thus, at the end of May 1945, the authorized representative of the NKVD for the 1st Belorussian Front, Ivan Alexandrovich Serov, reported to Marshal Zhukov: "The troops of the front in response to the terrorist manifestations of the Germans shot 567 members of the Volkssturm - members of the fascist party." Translated into normal language, this means the ordinary execution of hostages, prohibited by international conventions and imputed to German generals at the Nuremberg trials. Almost every German could be declared a member of the Volkssturm (militia), and a tenth of the entire population of Germany consisted of the National Socialist Party. Thousands of German CSVs became victims of such repressions.

However, the Western allies also treated the German prisoners of war without much sympathy, looking at the death camps and listening to the stories of the surviving prisoners. Hans Rudel recalled his first interrogation in American captivity: "At the headquarters, we were first interrogated by three officers of the General



headquarters. They began by showing several photographs that they said showed victims of atrocities in the concentration camps. They proved to us that because we fought for this abomination, we also partly bear the blame.

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for that. They refused to believe me when I told them that I had never seen a single concentration camp in my life. I added that, if any excesses were committed, they were worthy of every kind of regret and censure, and the real culprits should be punished. I pointed out to them that such atrocities were committed not only by the Germans, but by all other peoples at all times. I reminded them of the Boer War. Hence, these excesses are to be judged by the same criteria. I cannot believe that the piles of bodies shown in the photographs were taken in concentration camps. I told them that we had seen such pictures not on paper, but in reality, after the air attacks on Dresden, Hamburg and other cities, when four-engine bombers literally flooded them indiscriminately with phosphorus and bombs of enormous destructive power and thousands of women and children were victims of this massacre. And I assured these gentlemen that if they were particularly interested in atrocities, they would find abundant material from their EASTERN ALLIES."

After the war, Rudel ended up at the RAF Command School in Tangmere. His transfer there was achieved by Major Bader, the most popular British pilot of the Second World War. Rudel lost a leg in battle, and Bader both, and, like his German comrade in misfortune, he flew on prostheses. Bader himself was a prisoner of war in Germany and made several attempts to escape. In England, Rudel had one very curious discussion: "During one of my last days in Tangemere, I had a much explanatory discussion with the cadets of the KAE who studied at the flying school. One of them, a non-Englishman, hoping, no doubt, to infuriate

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or humiliate me, asks what I think the Russians can do to me if I return to my native place in Silesia.

"I believe the Russians are smart enough," I reply, "to take advantage of my experience. In the field of anti-tank combat, which is inevitable in any new war, my explanation may put the enemy of the Russians at a disadvantage. I have destroyed more than five hundred tanks, and assuming that over the next few years I have to train five or six hundred pilots, each of whom will destroy at least a hundred tanks, you can guess how many tanks the industry will have to produce. enemy to make up for all these losses.

This answer arouses general astonishment, and I am anxiously asked how this can be reconciled with my past attitude towards Bolshevism. Until now, I have not been allowed to say anything disparagingly about Russia, their ally. But now they tell me about mass deportations to the east and tell me about cases of rape and cruelty, about bloody terrorism with which the hordes that surged from the Asian steppes torture subjugated peoples ... This is something new for me, because before they have carefully avoided touching on the subject, but now their views correspond exactly to our own opinions, which are often expressed, and they are expressed in words that are often copied from our lexicon. The CAR commanders who piloted the Hurricanes on the Russian side near Murmansk share their memories, they are extremely harsh. From. of all of our downed ALMOST NO ONE IS SURVIVED.

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"And you want to work for the Russians!" they exclaim.

"I was very interested to hear your opinion about your allies," I reply. "Of course, I didn't say a word about what I think about it myself, I only answered the question you asked me."

On April 19, 1943, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted a decree imposing the death penalty by hanging or 15-20 years hard labor for "German fascist villains guilty of killing and torturing the Soviet civilian population and captured Red Army soldiers," as well as for "traitors to the Motherland from among the Soviet citizens and for their accomplices."

According to this decree, they executed both soldiers, officers and generals who actually committed war crimes, as well as soldiers and officers who simply fell under the arm, from whom they were knocked out by torture.

confessions to non-existent crimes. There were more rare cases of shooting German prisoners of war, especially SS men, on the spot, when the Red Army refused to take them prisoner. So, a member of the Military Council of the North-Western Front P.K. According to Nomarenko, on March 26, 1942, he noted: "Of course, there will be few surrenders .. if we shoot the prisoners in full view of the Germans (under the Hill they killed a group that was walking from the city to our units with their hands up)." Panteleimon Kondratievich did not seem to object to shooting the surrendered Germans away from the front line, where the executions could not be observed from the German positions. In total, according to official Soviet data, 2.73 million German servicemen were in Soviet captivity, of which about half a million Germans and Austrians died. Western historians sometimes find

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are captured by Soviet data on the number of prisoners (forgive me an involuntary pun), based on direct reports from the combat units. So, in Germany they still believe that 1.1 million soldiers and officers of the Wehrmacht died in Soviet captivity. But primary reports on the number of prisoners usually depended only on the creative abilities of the officer or general who compiled them. For example, the commander of the 4th Guards Kuban Cossack Corps, General Kirichenko, reported that on July 29, 1942, he took 500 prisoners. According to his deputy Colonel Bardadin, in fact only 15 people were captured. Also, Marshal Zhukov, after the capture of Berlin, reported that the troops of the 1st Belorussian Front took 90 thousand prisoners, among which only 600 officers, which gives a ratio of 149:1. Meanwhile, in the German army, one officer accounted for 54 privates, and in irretrievable losses in the east, this ratio was 1: 36. Obviously, civil servants of government agencies located in Berlin were declared prisoners of war. By the way, the military reports of the Western allies also sinned by such an overestimation of the number of prisoners. Thus, if we take the war diary of the American General George Patton, then the number of German prisoners allegedly captured by his 3rd Army during the entire campaign in the west will significantly exceed the number of German troops opposing him. The Germans who returned from captivity testified that when escorting prisoners who had lost their strength, the escorts shot them to the rear. Also widely known are the brutal massacres of the Red Army soldiers over the wounded Germans after the capture of the hospital in Feodosia in January 1942 and in other places. Here it was not so much the feeling of rage and revenge that affected, but

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the calculation of commanders and political workers, on whose direct instigation, reprisals against prisoners often took place. The Red Army soldiers thus cut off their way into German captivity, because they did not doubt that they would be treated just as cruelly. That is, the same excesses with prisoners took place in the Red Army as in the Wehrmacht, but their scale was much smaller, because until the last months of the war, the Red Army captured relatively few German prisoners. In total, until January 1, 1945, only about 650 thousand Germans were taken prisoner. The prisoners captured in the last months of the war and as part of the general surrender were treated more humanely, and many of them were released after a few months right in Germany. At the same time, among the prisoners captured in the first years of the war, the mortality rate was very high. As I said, almost none of the soldiers of the 6th German Army captured in Stalingrad survived. By the way, it should be noted that the mortality rate was also high among the 250,000 German and Italian prisoners captured by the Allies in Tunisia in May 1943. Settled in camps in the desert, many of them died from epidemics and lack of water and food before being evacuated to England.

German generals stayed in Soviet captivity for a particularly long time, whom the Soviet side tried not to let go until 1955, so that they could not participate in the construction of the Bundeswehr. In total, out of 576 German generals who found themselves in Soviet captivity, 99, or 26.3%, died, while among the officers who were kept in approximately the same conditions as the generals, and much better than ordinary soldiers, the mortality rate was only 6, 3%. Of course, many generals were quite old people and suffered from various chronic diseases.

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diseases that did not contribute to longevity in captivity. However, there is a clear impression that the Soviet Union pursued a deliberate policy of exterminating captured German generals. So, back in December 1945 - January 1946, according to Stalin's order, by decree of April 19, 1943, 18 generals, 28 officers and 39 non-commissioned officers were convicted. Of these, 66 people, including almost all the generals, were sentenced

We are to be hanged and hanged in the squares of the liberated Soviet cities, and on the 19th - to hard labor for a term of 12 to 20 years. Among the executed generals were both real criminals guilty of crimes against humanity, such as the former head of the SS and police of the Reichskommissariat Ostland Obergruppenführer and police general Friedrich Jeckeln, as well as ordinary front-line generals who were charged with war crimes committed by their subordinates ( Soviet, British and American generals, of course, no one blamed such crimes). However, even some of those generals who initially escaped with imprisonment or hard labor were subsequently shot anyway. This happened, for example, with the former commander of the SS Panzer Division "Totenkopf" Helmut Becker, who was shot in February 1953 on charges of "sabotaging construction work." And General Helmut von Pannwitz was hanged only because he commanded a Cossack corps, formed mainly from former Red Army soldiers. Pannwitz became one of the few German generals who was already fully rehabilitated today by the Supreme Court of Russia, then, however, shamefacedly withdrawing the rehabilitation.

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The circumstances of the death in captivity from acute heart failure of a number of German generals are also extremely suspicious, including Field Marshal Ewald von Kleist in 1954 and the former commandant of Berlin, General of Artillery Helmut Weidling in November 1955, literally on the eve of his planned transfer to the German government. I have a strong suspicion that the heirs of the special laboratory of the NKVD of Professor Moiransky worked here, where they developed poisons to quietly eliminate objectionable people and tested the effects of poisons on prisoners, including German prisoners of war.

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Applications

1. J. Goebbels. Total War Speech, February 18, 1943

So you, sitting here in front of me, represent the entire German people at this moment. And I would like to ask you ten questions, to which you, together with the entire German people, must answer me in the face of the whole world, and especially our enemies, who are now listening to us on the radio.

First, the British claim that the German people have lost faith in victory. I ask you: do you believe, together with the Führer and us, in the final total victory of the German people? I ask you: have you decided to follow the Führer through fire and water for the sake of winning victory, even with the greatest personal burden?

Second, the British say that the German people are tired of the war. I ask you: are you ready, being the phalanx of the Fuhrer behind the lines of the fighting Wehrmacht, to continue this fight with fierce determination and fight it, despite all the vicissitudes of fate, until victory is in our hands?

Third, the British maintain that the German people are no longer willing to take on the ever-increasing labor of war that the government demands of them. I ask you: are you and the German people full of determination, if the Führer orders it, to work ten, twelve, and if necessary, fourteen hours a day and give your last strength for victory?

Fourth: the British claim that the German people

resists the government's all-out military measures. As if he wants not total war, but capitulation. I ask you: do you want total war? Would you like

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to lead it, even if it is necessary to lead it even more totally and radically than we can even imagine today?

Fifth, the British say that the German people have lost confidence in the Kfuhrer. I ask you: is your confidence in the Riekfuehrer today not more, not more convinced, not more unshakable than before? Has not your willingness to follow him, follow his path and do everything to bring the war to a victorious end, become absolute and limitless?

I ask you, sixthly, are you ready from now on to give all your strength and give the Eastern Front the men and weapons it needs to deliver a mortal blow to Bolshevism?

Seventh, I ask you: do you give the front a sacred oath that the rear with high morale is behind it and will give it everything it needs to win victory?

Eighthly, I ask you: do you, especially women, want the government to make sure that a woman can devote all her strength to the war and, wherever possible, replace the men that the front needs, thereby freeing the men for him?

Ninthly, I ask you: would you approve, if necessary, the most radical measures against a small circle of deserters and speculators who, in the midst of a war, are playing at peace and want to use the people's need for their own selfish ends? Do you agree that whoever commits a crime before the war should lose his head for it?

Tenthly and finally, I ask you: do you want, as the program of the National Socialist Party requires, that it is precisely during the war that equal rights and equal duties reign among us, that the home front also shouldered the burden of the burden of war and that everyone, whether those who stand high or low, and those who are poor or rich, share this burden for the most part?

So I asked you questions. You gave me your answer. You are part of the people, which means that you have proclaimed with your own lips the position of all Germans. With your exclamations you expressed our

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enemies what they need to know, so as not to indulge in illusions and not create false ideas for themselves. Thus, as from the first hour of our power all these ten years, we have been in close and fraternal unity with the German people. The most powerful ally in the world, the people themselves, stands behind us and is determined, together with the Fuhrer, not fearing the heaviest sacrifices, whatever the cost, to achieve victory in the struggle ...

All of us, the children of our people, united in this greatest, fateful hour of our national history, we swear to all the people, we swear to the Fuhrer and the front that here, in the rear, we want to create such a block of our will, on which the Fuhrer can unconditionally rely, and his rushing soldiers. We pledge to do whatever it takes in our lives and work to win. We want to fill our hearts with that political passion that has always, at all times of the struggle between the Party and the state, burned in us like an unquenchable fire. We never wanted in this war to fall into the objectivist daydreaming that has brought so much grief to the German nation in its history. When this war began, we directed our eyes only and exclusively to the nation. That which serves her struggle for her vital interests is good and should be preserved and encouraged. We want to approach the big problems of this time with a warm heart and a cool head. Thus we are marching on the path that leads to ultimate victory. And at the heart of everything is faith in the Fuhrer. That is why I want to once again open the eyes of the whole nation to its great duty this evening. The Führer expects from us such accomplishments that will eclipse everything that has happened so far. We want to be at the height of his requirements. We are proud of him, and he should be able to be proud of us. Only in times of great crises and upheavals of national life do true men, and also true women, show themselves in practice. Here, no one has the right to talk about the weaker sex, because both sexes prove their equal fighting determination and spiritual strength. The nation is ready for anything. The Fuhrer has ordered that we follow him. In this hour of national reflection and inner upsurge, we are even more

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and we will believe more invincibly in victory. We see victory in tangible proximity, we just need to reach out and grab it. We must find in ourselves the determination to put absolutely everything in its service. This is the call of the times. That's why our slogan is: "Get up, people, let the storm break"

## 2. Anti-Semitic laws of the Third Reich

### (0) LAW "ON REGULATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPOSITION OF THE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS" FROM APRIL 7, 1933

The purpose of this law was to eliminate the politicization that existed in the government apparatus of the Weimar Republic, and most importantly, the expulsion of Jews from it. Note that in 1933, about 12% of working Jews were employees of state institutions, and the Nazis proclaimed that this is indeed a significant number and is a visible expression of Jewish dominance in Germany. The law was formulated as follows:

"The Reich government has passed the law published below:

1.1. In order to streamline the national professional apparatus of employees and to simplify administration, it is allowed, according to the text of this decree, to dismiss the following categories of officials from their posts, even if there are no instructions for dismissal in existing laws.

1.2. Officials in this law are persons employed directly or indirectly in the service of the Reich or other state bodies, officials of municipalities or municipal councils, officials of public courts, as well as institutions similar to these ... The same instructions apply to employees of the social system insurance, having the rights and obligations of chi NOVNIKOV.

2.1. Officials who entered the civil service after November 9, 1918 and do not have the appropriate qualifications or abilities are dismissed. Current

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their salary will be paid within three months after their dismissal.

2.2. Officials are deprived of the right to temporary allowance, pension, as well as the right to retain their rank, uniform, medals for long service ...

3.1. Officials of non-Aryan origin are retired (para. 8 et seq.); if they have received any honorary title, they are deprived of it.

5.2. Subparagraph one of this paragraph does not apply

applies to those who were in the service before August 1, 1914 or fought at the front during the World War on the side of the German people and its allies, or those whose parents or children died in the war. Additional exceptions are possible with the permission of the Minister of the Interior, agreed with the relevant Ministry or the High Bureau for Foreign Service.

4. It is allowed to dismiss officials who have not proved by their actions their readiness to unwaveringly defend the interests of the state at any moment.

Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler

Home Secretary Frick

Finance Minister Count Schwerin von Krosigk.

An additional "Aryan paragraph" appeared four days later, on April 11, in the instructions for use.  
law:

2-3. (1) A non-Aryan is one whose origin is non-Aryan, especially if his parents or parents are Jewish. It is sufficient if one of the parents or parents of the parents was a non-Aryan. It is especially important if one of the parents or parents of the parents professed Judaism.

(2) If an officer was not in the service before August 1, 1914, he must prove that he belongs to the Aryan race, or fought at the front, or that he is the son or father of those who fell in the war. Proof is the presentation

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certificates (birth certificates, marriage certificates of parents, army certificates).

(5) If Aryan ancestry is in doubt, one should consult an expert on these matters at the Ministry of the Interior...

In the same instruction, however, there is a slight concession to officials hired before 1914; as well as World War veterans (and their children). This concession was made as a result of the personal intervention of President Hindenburg (even before the publication of the law), as well as special correspondence between him and Hitler.

04/22/1953 - dismissal of Jewish doctors from polyclinics;

04/25/1933 - the introduction of a percentage rate for Jews in

schools and universities;

05/06/1933 - inclusion of professors and notaries in the category of "professional officials",

06/02/1933 - dismissal of dentists and technicians from polyclinics;

07/05/1933 - cancellation of benefits for newlyweds if one of the partners is non-Aryan (note: the ban on mixed marriages does not yet exist);

07/14/1933 - cancellation of permits issued after 1918 to obtain German citizenship (mainly for Jews from Eastern Europe);

07/20/1933 - extension of the "Aryan paragraph" to law firms;

09/22/1933 - the establishment of the "State Department of Culture", where access was open only to the Aryans (a network of local professional bureaus was subordinate to this organization. Only members registered in them were allowed to legally engage in one or another type of cultural activity. Thus, the Jews actually deprived of previous jobs in this area);

09/29/1933 - the demand from the peasants for evidence of their Aryan origin;

11/04/1933 - The "Newspaper Editing Law" is introduced, which forbids Jews or persons married to Jews to edit German newspapers.

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(material was used from the site yyy. ReasB.ga / 9 5ogu / 1e550p \$).

## (2) NUREMBERG LAWS

### A. Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor of September 15, 1935

Motivated by the consciousness that the purity of German blood is the guarantee of the existence of the German people, and also by the unshakable determination to guarantee the existence of the German nation at all times, the Reichstag unanimously passed the laws published below.

#### \$1.1. Marriages between Jews and state subjects

nyms of German or related blood are prohibited. Marriages entered into contrary to this law have no legal effect, even if they are arranged outside of Germany in circumvention of this law.

2. The procedure for the annulment of such a marriage can only be carried out by a public prosecutor.

\$ 2. Sex between Jews and state subjects of German or kindred blood is prohibited.

\$ 3. Jews are prohibited from hiring women in their homes - state subjects of German or kindred blood who have not reached 45 years of age.

\$4.1. Jews are prohibited from flying the Reich flag as a national flag, and from using the colors of the Reich for other purposes.

2. At the same time, they are allowed to display Jewish colors. This right is protected by the state. (Referring to the hanging of flags with the Star of David.)

\$5.1. Anyone who violates the prohibition set out in paragraph 1 will be punished with one year's imprisonment and forced labor.

2. A male person who violates the prohibition set out in paragraph 2 will be punished with imprisonment without forced labor.

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3. Anyone who violates guidelines 3 and 4 will be punished with imprisonment for up to one year and a fine or one of these penalties.

\$6. The Reich Minister of the Interior, together with the Deputy Führer and the Reich Minister of Justice, will draw up special legislative and administrative provisions for the application and enforcement of these laws.

\$ 7. The law will enter into force the day after its publication, except for 3, which will enter into force only on January 1, 1935.

Nuremberg, 15 September 1955,

on the day of the Party Congress of Freedom.  
Führer and Chancellor of the Reich: Adolf Hitler  
Minister of the Interior: Frick Minister of  
Justice: Girtner Deputy Führer: R.  
Hess

B. Reich Citizenship Law

The Reichstag unanimously approved the following law, proclaimed below:

\$1.1. A citizen of the state is anyone who is under the protection of the German Reich and therefore bears special obligations to it.

1.2. Reich citizenship is granted in accordance with the provisions of the Reich and State Citizenship Law.

2.1. A citizen of the Reich is only a citizen of the state of German or related blood, who has proved by his behavior that he is ready and worthy to faithfully serve the German people and the Reich.

2.2. The right of citizenship is conferred by issuing a certificate of Reich citizenship.

2.3. Only a citizen of the Reich has all political rights, in accordance with the law.

5. Minister of the Interior as agreed by the Sfuhrer

'issuing administrative instructions for the enforcement and execution of this law.

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Nuremberg, 15 September 1935,

on the day of the Party Congress of Freedom.  
Fuhrer and Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler, Interior  
Minister Frick.

B. First Commentary on the Reich Citizenship Law of September 15, 1935, issued on November 14, 1935

4.1. A Jew cannot be a citizen of the Reich. He does not have the right to vote in political matters, he cannot hold positions in state institutions.

4.2. Jewish officials will be dismissed until December 31, 1935.

5.1. A Jew is a person whose ancestors in the second generation (grandparents) had at least three persons of the Jewish race ...

5.2. A "Mishling" (mestizo, half-breed) who is a state subject is also considered a Jew if he descends from two Jewish ancestors.



(3) FROM THE MINUTE OF THE INTERROGATION OF SS  
Gruppenfuehrer Ohlendorf, HEAD OF THE EINSATZGRUP-O,  
AT THE COURT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY  
TRIBUNAL VNURNBERG ON JANUARY 3, 1946

Ohlendorf: From June 1941 until the death of Heydrich, that is, until  
June 1942, I led Operational Group O and was authorized chief of the Security  
Police and SD of the 11th Army.

AMEN: In what area did Group O operate?

Ohlendorf: Group "O" operated in southern Ukraine...

AMEN: If the official tasks of this group were related to activities  
against Jews and communist commissars, then to what extent did this  
group deal with them?

Ohlendorf: As regards the question of the Jews and the Communists,  
the task force and the heads of the individual

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active teams had oral instructions that were given to them before the  
performance.

AMEN: What were these instructions to the Jews and communist  
leaders?

OHLENDORF: They were instructed to liquidate Jews and political  
commissars in the area of operations of the operational groups on Russian  
territory.

AMEN: When you say "eliminate" do you mean "kill"?

Ohlendorf: Yes. It means to kill.

AMEN: Tell me, do you know how many people were killed and liquidated  
by Task Force "O" during the period of your leadership?

Ohlendorf: From June 1941 to June 1942, operational teams  
reported that approximately 90 thousand  
thousand people.

AMEN: Tell the Tribunal in detail how these mass executions were  
carried out?

Ohlendorf: The local operational team tried to account for all the  
Jews and announced registration. The registration was carried out by the  
Jews themselves... After the registration, the Jews were collected in a certain  
place. From there they were later transported to

place of execution. As a rule, the place of execution was an anti-tank ditch or just a pit. Executions were carried out in a military way, on command.

AMEN: How were they transported to the place of execution?

Ohlendorf: They were brought in trucks to the place of execution, and as many as could be executed immediately. Thus, all this was carried out as quickly as possible, that is, the interval between the actual execution and the realization that this would be done was very small.

AMEN: After they were shot, what was done with their bodies?

Ohlendorf: They were buried in this pit or in the anti-tank ditch.

AMEN: What did you do with the personal property and clothing of the executed?

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Ohlendorf: Valuable things were confiscated during registration, that is, at the moment when people were collected. They were confiscated and transferred through the Reich Security Headquarters to the Ministry of Finance or directly to this Ministry. The clothes were initially distributed to the population, but later they were collected by the NSF (National Socialist Benevolent Society) and distributed by this organization.

AMEN: Was all this personal property registered at the time?

Ohlendorf: Only valuables were registered.

AMEN: Tell me, please, were all the victims - women, men and children - executed in the same way?

Ohlendorf: Until the spring of 1942, the same. Then followed an order from Himmler that in the future women and children should be destroyed only in gas chambers.

AMEN: How were women and children executed before?

Ohlendorf: Just like men: they were shot...

AMEN: Describe to the Tribunal the design of the gas chambers and their appearance.

Ohlendorf: Outwardly, it was impossible to make for-

conclusion about the appointment of gas chambers. They were closed trucks. They were designed in such a way that when the engine was started, the gas from the exhaust pipe passed into the body, and death occurred in about 10-15 minutes.

Nikitchenko: You said in your testimony that the purpose of the task force was to exterminate the Jews and the commissars. Right?

Ohlendorf: Yes.

Nikitchenko: What were the motives for exterminating people?

Ohlendorf: There was an order that the Jewish population should be completely exterminated.

Nikitchenko: Including children?

Ohlendorf: Yes.

Nikitchenko: Was it only the children of Jews who were exterminated?

Ohlendorf: Yes.

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Colonel John Amen - U.S. Attorney Major General of Justice. IP  
Nikitchenko is a member of the International Military Tribunal from the USSR.

From the verdict of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg  
"Persecution of the Jews".

Such evidence presented to the Tribunal establishes the persecution of the Jews by the Nazi government. This is the story of inhumanity carried out consistently and systematically on the widest scale.

When the witness Bach-Zelewski was asked how it could happen that Ohlendorf, as he admitted, with the people under his command killed 90 thousand people, he  
branches:

"I personally believe that when the doctrine is preached for long years, ten years, that the Slavic race is an inferior race, and the Jews are not even human, such a result is inevitable."

The Defendant Frank spoke the last words of this chapter of Nazi history when he testified at the trial:

"We fought against Jewry, we fought against it for a number of years, we own some of the

statements (and my diary may become a witness against myself in connection with this) - sayings that are terrible ... Millennia will pass, but this guilt of Germany will still not be removed.

The anti-Semitic policy was formulated in paragraph 4 of the party program, which read as follows:

"Only a member of the race" can be a citizen, and a member of the race can only be one in whom Germanic blood flows, regardless of his religion. Therefore, no Jew can be a representative of the race."

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In the original, "Volksgenosse" (i.e., "comrade in the national community").

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By the end of 1938, Nazi policy toward the Jews had reached a stage that took the form of the total exclusion of Jews from German life. Pogroms were organized during which synagogues were burned and destroyed; Jewish businesses were looted, and prominent Jewish businessmen were arrested. A collective fine of one billion marks was imposed on the Jews; the seizure of Jewish property was authorized, and the movement of Jews was restricted to certain areas and certain hours. Ghettos were created on an extremely large scale, and by order of the security police, Jews were forced to wear a yellow star on their chests and backs.

The Nazi persecution of the Jews in Germany before the war, although cruel and ruthless, is, however, no comparison with the policy pursued during the war in the occupied territories. Initially, this policy was similar to that implemented inside Germany: all Jews had to be registered, they were forced to live in a ghetto, they had to wear a yellow star, and they were used for slave labor. In the summer of 1941, however, plans began to be drawn for the "final solution" of the Jewish question in Europe. This "final solution" meant the extermination of all Jews, which, according to Hitler's threats, at the beginning of 1939 was to be one of the consequences of the outbreak of war; to implement this policy, a special department of the Gestapo was organized, headed by Adolf Eichmann, head of the 4-B case.

The plan for the extermination of the Jews was developed shortly after the attack on the Soviet Union. Gloomy evidence of the mass

The first murders of Jews were also presented to the Tribunal by showing a film showing the mass graves of hundreds of victims subsequently discovered by the Allies.

On the question of Auschwitz, the Tribunal heard evidence from Hess, who was the camp commandant from May 1, 1940 to December 1, 1943. He stated that in only one lag

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During this period, 2,500 thousand people were exterminated at Auschwitz, in addition to the fact that 500 thousand died from disease and starvation.

Evidence was presented regarding the fate of the prisoners before and after their extermination.

Specially created groups of people traveled around Europe, looking for Jews for the so-called final solution of the problem. German missions were sent to some satellite countries (Hungary and Bulgaria) to arrange for the above-mentioned purposes the sending of Jews to extermination camps in Germany. It is known that by the end of 1944, 400,000 Jews from Hungary were killed in Auschwitz. There are testimonies about the evacuation of 110,000 Jews from Romania for liquidation. Adolf Eichmann, who was commissioned by Hitler to carry out this program, estimated that 6 million Jews were killed as a result of the policy pursued, of which 4 million were killed in extermination stations.

(Based on materials from the site \Uuh. poosai\$(.105\$0.gi).

#### (4) JUNE 6, 1960, THE EICHMANN TRIAL IN JERUSALEM

From the transcript of the meeting

Eichmann. Captain, I read that Hoess said that he killed four million Jews. So far, I have considered this number to be quite high. But if we now want to talk about figures in general: is it a million, or four million, or is it a hundred people, it makes no difference in principle. For all these 15 years, I sometimes figured it out myself. At the end of the war, I spoke to my officers about five million - such a number was vaguely imagined to me then. In the language of the end of the world - or what else to call? These exact figures were completely unnecessary to me.

I no longer remember whether the Jewish yearbook for Europe spoke of ten million Jews, and I don't know whether Russians occupied by German troops were included there.

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sky areas or not. In any case, I tried to determine the basis. I read that a few months after the war, the Allies found another 2.4 million Jews. I read this. Emigration from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia - I figured, well, let's say 1.2 million emigrated. Another natural decrease in numbers. I'm not a statistician, just figured it out. So I think: yes, it turns out that about six million Jews were killed; that's how I imagined it. Whether I am right in this, sir captain, I do not know.

Less (investigator). Were the names of the murdered Jews registered in your department?

Eichmann. Evacuated Jews? Or.. those.. all... all? I didn't have it. There was no such thing!

Loess. Why were you asked about Jewish death certificates?

Eichmann. I was requested. But there were no lists. It makes no sense to deny what happened. I would have to start too... very... very big - let's say conspicuous, to say the least - a case of MANUFACTURE OF THIS... THAT kind. No, he wasn't.

Dess. When the concentration camps gave reports about the dead to the Reich Security Headquarters, shouldn't they have reached you if there were Jews there?

Eichmann. The Jews did not do this. When in the beginning there were orders for individual executions, then, of course, there were personal matters, and when the lists began, it was already ... a mass affair. We didn't have them...

Eichmann. No. I never received any reports. Of course, they had to report to the Main Directorate of Affairs and Economy. I was once visited by a statistician, a professional statistician. The man's surname was Tsakharias or something similar. It seems to me that it began with the letter "C". It's possible to install it. Before that, my boss Müller told me that I would have to make a report for Hitler - for the Führer, he said then; by order of Himmler and on the Führer's typewriter. I also heard this word for the first time. It was a typewriter with huge

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"and you:

terami, I had to arrange that, when the

the stick finishes the report, it was taken from the Gestapo headquarters in Prinz-Albrechtstrasse, because the Security Police had only one such typewriter.

Well, that man, the statistician, came to me in the department. He was instructed by the Reichsfuehrer to compile detailed statistics on the situation with the solution of the Jewish question in Europe; all cases classified as "state secret", everything had to be provided to this employee. And he was clearly aware of the matter, I immediately noticed it. He has already requested all the commanders of the security police.

Loess. What conclusions did he come to?

Eichmann. He united all the cases of destruction in the East. It was by that time, together with emigration and natural decline, as he called it, probably 4,500,000 or 5 million. This number is in my memory. In this way - as it was said in that report - the problem of the Jews in Europe is basically closed.

Loess. Do you know the name of the statistician?

Eichmann. It started with "C". For some reason it seems to me - Tsakharias?

Loess. Doctor Korcher?

Eichmann. Korcher? My God, am I so wrong? Korcher, Korcher? I've heard that name too!

Loess. What material did you present to this statistician?

Eichmann. All cases are classified as "state secrets", as ordered. For all the echelons that we were informed about.

Loess. Did these materials also contain figures on the extermination of the Jews?

Eichmann. No. Destruction is not. I never had them.

Loess. Only the number of evacuees and trains? You were told when the train was leaving.

Eichmann. We received such messages. I knew only these numbers, and Günther used them to mark on the wall in his office - after all, this .. must have been seen dozens of times by Dr.

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Lowengerts... everyone who went there could see this gra-

fic, long curve. It's a pity that I don't remember the general numbers.

Loess. Have you already compiled a report on the number of deported Jews before?

Eichmann. Before the statistician came? Captain, I don't know. If it was ordered, then, of course, I did it, but I can't remember. With numerous writings, not - because our work consisted only of writings - now it is actually very difficult to confidently answer about any particular matter from this writings.

Loess. Did the statistician come because Himmler found the number of exterminated Jews too low?

Eichmann. No. This statistical report was made in order to give Himmler the opportunity to inform Hitler. Because I later received the document back, with Himmler's note:

"1. The Fuhrer took note. 2. Drafts destroyed LIVE.

Or the word "drafts" was not there. Just "2. Destroyed live".

Chronicler. Dr. Richard Korcher, a renowned statistician in scientific circles, was not a member of the SS. Himmler used his services because he believed that by means of statistics he would be able to expose the inaccuracies and inaccuracies of his subordinate "Fuehrers". By the numerical balance of the extermination of the Jews, he hoped to impress Hitler. However, to Himmler's chagrin, he did not get a chance to deliver the report personally to Hitler.

I had to give it to Martin Bormann. He first returned the document, and with the remark that in this form it could not be presented to Hitler; that the words "liquidation" and "special treatment" should be replaced by others. But when it was done, Bormann kept pulling. He understood that although the Jews needed to be exterminated, the head of state did not want to know about it officially.

Loess. I am now showing you a photocopy of a letter from the Reichsfuehrer SS to the Chief of the Security Police and SD

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Berlin. State secret. Can you tell me whose initials are down there?

Eichmann. This is Himmler's signature, "GT". With the stamp "state secret", from the field headquarters of the Reichsfuehrer:



"I have received a statistical report from the statistician on the final solution of the Jewish question. I think that as a possible material for the future, for cover purposes, this report is quite good. At the present time, it can neither be published nor made known to other persons. The most important thing for me is still that the Jews are now being sent to the East; which is the only possible solution from the human point of view..."

Loess. Well? How should this be understood here: for cover purposes? .

Eichmann. Yes, this is not clear to me now either; after all, after the statistician is basically... But what does it mean - basically? After all, he named and counted all the things, he was used to this de  
act like a statistician.

Loess. Perhaps the statistician Korcher's report did not contain any figures relating to the murdered Jews. Hence the expression "for cover purposes".

Eichmann. No, it doesn't fit. There were also all the figures that statistics were given from ... sent from the East, otherwise they would not have appeared in this report at all. And it was a report for ... for the Fuhrer, and no one would do anything there - let's say - comb it. "For cover purposes" - this is necessary for me

understandable.

Loess. The last sentence here says:

"I want the brief monthly reports of the Security Police to report only the number of Jews sent in a month and how many are still left at the moment."

So you submitted monthly reports on the deported Jews?

Eichmann. Yes, sure. You see, this is reporting, and monthly reports relate to it, quite clearly. Sure enough, the monthly reports began to seem too long to him. I can imagine.

Loess. Did your report contain more information before?

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Eichmann. Yes, there was the whole situation, all the difficulties in individual countries. General, I would say, covering all issues working report; of course, in the appropriate ... in the appropriate short form.

But how many were killed - I did not have these figures. When the statistician was with me to do his analysis, he was in my department for a week or two, every day he sent telegrams from here and all kinds of inquiries to the most diverse institutions. And now I think ... After all, it is possible that

blowing .. Yes, it is now ... now everything is completely clear to me about this letter, why it says "for the purpose of cover." After all, the statistician received from me only the total number of those who were taken out, and not those killed.

Loess. Since when did you know Dr. Wilhelm Höttl?

Eichman. I met Höttl in 1938 somewhere in Vienna. At that time he was also, I think, in the SD.

Loess. Was he in SD all these years? Was he also in Hungary?

Eichmann. I am not sure now that Höttl was in Hungary, but if he was there, then I probably spoke with him there too.

Loess. Did you tell Höttl that in Hungary you organized and supervised the transfer of Jews to the Auschwitz extermination camp?

Eichmann. To organize and control is something I never said to Höttl.

Loess. What did they say?

Eichmann. Maybe ... maybe he spoke in accordance with the actual state of affairs, since Höttl was, after all, at that time, I believe, for a long time already the head of the department in the department of the UP of the Main Directorate of Imperial Security, he knew about affairs no worse than me. Management \1, they were doing reconnaissance. Why shouldn't they be aware of the affairs of their own - if I may say so - services.

Loess. Did you tell Höttl how many Jews were exterminated?

Eichmann. How much I thought? If he asked me, it is possible that I gave him an approximate number. Ra understands.

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Less. I will now read to you a passage from Volume 31 of the Materials of the International Military Tribunal for the Chief War Criminals at Nuremberg - the sworn affidavit of Dr. Wilhelm Höttl. I quote:

"My name is Dr. Wilhelm Höttl, SS-Sturmbannführer, SS Major. My position before the surrender of Germany was: referent and deputy head of a department in the UG Directorate of the Main Directorate of Reich Security. The UT department was the so-called foreign department of the SD and was engaged in intelligence in all countries of the world. This roughly corresponds to the English "Intelligence Service".

Further:

"At the end of August 1944, in my apartment in Budapest, I had a conversation with SS-Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann, known to me since 1938. Eichmann was at that time, as far as I knew, the head of a department in [At the department - the Gestapo - the Main Directorate of Imperial Security, and, in addition, carried out Himmler's order to collect Jews in all European countries and transport them to Germany.

Eichmann was deeply impressed by the withdrawal of Rumania from the war that followed in those days. He expressed himself in the sense that the war had already been lost by Germany and that there was no chance for him personally. He knows that the United Nations considers him one of the main war criminals because he has millions of Jewish lives on his conscience. I asked him exactly how much, to which he replied that this number is a great state secret, but he will tell me, because as a historian it should be interesting to me. He had recently made a report for Himmler, because he wanted to know the exact number of Jews killed. And based on the information he had, he came to the following conclusion. Approximately four million Jews were killed in various extermination camps, and another two million found other deaths, most of them shot by task forces, "Einsatzkommandos" of the security police, during the military campaign against Russia.

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Himmler was pleased with the result, because the number of Jews killed must have been more than six million, he believed. Himmler announced that he would send a man from his statistical department to Eichmann to prepare a new report based on Eichmann's materials. I believe that this information, given to me by Eichmann, was correct, because he had the most reliable information about the number of Jews killed from all those involved.

Firstly, he was his task force, the "Sonderkommandos" sent the Jews to the places of extermination, and secondly, he, as the head of that department in the [Directorate, which dealt with Jewish affairs, knew this number best of all. Moreover, Eichmann was at that moment in such a state of mind that he could not have had any intention of telling a lie. (...)

Loess. I'm showing you the prosecution document of the 11th Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. This is a telegram from Budapest dated June 17, 1944. In the line "Jews" it says: "The total number sent to the Reich is 226.009.

Eichmann. The number, if given by the Reichs Plenipotentiary for Hungary, Wesenmeier, must match. So he got it from me or from one of my people. (...) |

Eichmann. (...) Personally, I believe, and still believe today, that most of the 450,000 Hungarian Jews who were taken to Auschwitz survived. After all, soon ... yes, I can say this: somehow an order came from Germany: "stop! - stop degurtation.

Loess. From Himmler?

Eichmann. Yes. The commander of the security police in Budapest received an order from Germany to "set aside".

It was not allowed to continue the evacuation, because Oswiecim could no longer take so much, so Himmler gave the order to stop the killings. Auschwitz was overcrowded and could not accommodate anyone else. I believe the break lasted about a week.

Loess. Does this mean that everything went on afterwards?

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Eichmann. Yes, then AGAIN, SO EXACTLY.

Loess. What does it mean: "Completion of the entire action, including the dispatch," as it is written here by adviser von Thadden, who is in contact with you at the Foreign Ministry? |

Eichmann. This meant, of course, the complete cleansing of Hungary from the Jews.

Loess. Including babies, children and old people?

Eichmann. In this case, yes! In this case, yes. New in Budapest, the case was not taken immediately.

Loess. The planned mass action in Budapest, which was undertaken, was planned by the German authorities, and not by the Hungarian?

Eichmann. This is a single action, it was planned in full cooperation by both services.

Loess. But we have seen here from documents that there was resistance on the part of the Hungarian authorities, perhaps with the exception of Secretary of State Endre. That's why you and your group were there - to apply pressure.

Eichmann. Captain, resistance in Hungary was offered by Horthy and his inner circle.

Breaking this resistance was not the task of a small team of the Security Police and the SD, it was the task of high officials under the Führer in Berlin, the Foreign Ministry, the Reichsfuehrer

The CSI of the chief of the German police - such heavy weights had to climb into it. And not the Sonderkommando Eichmann, Captain.

Loess. Doesn't it follow from the documents that we have seen here that there was a plan: in four months, to extract all up to one out of a million Jews and deport them?

Does this mean that your promotion was under strong pressure to complete it as soon as possible?

Eichmann. Yes sir!

Loess. What is left of the Jews of Europe? There was only one Hungary.

Eichmann. Captain, it's been like this from the beginning: evacuate as quickly as possible. If I was ordered to drive them from east to west as soon as possible, knowing

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chit, it became already in general terms clear to the German leadership how the situation on the fronts was developing.

But the pace of the action, Mr. Captain, did not depend on me with my few people.

I could not force the pace, only the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior could force the pace.

If, for example, the Hungarian gendarmerie carried out — let's use this word — sabotage, then nothing would happen at all, absolutely nothing!

Jochen von Lang. Eichmann protocols. Pier://115togu.ed sshb.gi/\$Boa/ettapo08.vit.

## (5) HOW THE SOVIET PARTISANS SHOT THE JEWS

During the war years, the belief was widespread among Soviet partisans that the Gestapo was sending Jews to them as agents. After all, no one will suspect the victims of the genocide, they say, in cooperation with the Germans. On August 10, 1943, the commander of the Osipovich partisan unit, Korolyov, reported to Moscow: "Recently, the Gestapo has been using Jews for espionage purposes. Thus, 9-month courses for Jews were opened under the Minsk and Borisov Gestapo. Spies were sent to apartments in the city and sent to the partisan detachments, the latter were supplied with poisonous substances to poison the partisans and commanders. A number of such spies were exposed in the Minsk zone" (f. 625, op. 1, file 20, fol. 57806).

The special departments had a certain mania in every Jewish defector to see a German spy. And if it was a Polish Jew, and even served with the Germans, his position became almost hopeless.

On March 18, 1943, Genrikh Maxi Milianovitch Chaplinsky, born in 1890, passed to the partisans of the Donukalov brigade operating in the Minsk region. A Polish Jew, he was a professor at the Krakow and Lvov conservatories. Chaplinsky toured the world a lot, lived in London, Paris, Antwerp, visited Brazil,

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Canada and USA. In 1940, the NKVD arrested him "for illegally crossing the border in the Malkin area." Chaplinsky spent 7 months in a prison in the city of Bialystok. With the beginning of the Soviet-German war, during the bombardment, he fled from the column of evacuated prisoners. He himself, during interrogation in a partisan detachment, claimed that in the Cherven region he was released by an escort. Subsequently, Chaplinsky served as an interpreter in German aviation units and headquarters in Minsk, Vitebsk, Mogilev and other Belarusian cities. Knowledge of languages helped out - Chaplinsky spoke Polish, Russian, German, English, French, Spanish and Czech. But from the point of view of the Soviet security agencies, the "rootless cosmopolitan" Chaplinsky, who traveled almost the whole world, looked like a seasoned spy. On May 15, 1943, Ponomarenko and People's Commissar of State Security of Belarus Lavrenty Fomich Tsanova told Stalin the main stages of the biography of the professor at the conservatory and made a disappointing conclusion for him: partisan detachment of Donukalov to penetrate into the Soviet rear. Moreover, there is reason to believe that he is an old German intelligence agent who worked in a number of countries on her instructions. Chaplinsky was transferred to Comrade Abakumov to the Main Directorate of Smersh. Prior to this, Ponomarenko also claimed, without any evidence, that Chaplinsky "was used by the Germans as an interpreter on serious matters." (RGASPI, f. 69, op. 1, d. 21, l. 58-59). Panteleimon Kondratevich did not specify what kind of serious matters these were. Maybe he was hinting at some kind of request from Soviet agents? But the Luftwaffe, after all, did not have any police functions, and it is unlikely that Henry Maximilianovich was used by anything other than negotiations with local authorities about quartering and supplying aviation units with everything necessary.

And here is another, apparently, fabricated case - German agents, allegedly sent to the partisan brigade "Uncle Vasya" in Belarus to carry out a di

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version and terrorist activities. The head of the NKVD special group attached to the brigade, Baer, and the head of the Special Department of the brigade, Ivanov, in a memorandum to the Central Headquarters of the partisan movement, stated: "On March 14, 1943, the partisans of the detachment. Suvorov Lisogor Ivan Maksimovich (arrived in the partisan detachment on 6.3.43 from the 46th Ukrainian battalion), being in the village of Yanushkovichi, Logoisk district of the Minsk region, in the house of peasants on Bogushevich, in the presence of the partisan Levina and the Bogushevich family, drunkenly blabbed about his hostility to the Soviet power, expressing counter-revolutionary slander against the leaders of the party, and beat a partisan from the "Uncle Dima" unit because she tried to stop his counter-revolutionary attacks.

On March 29, 1943, Lisogor was arrested by the Special Department, confessed to his counter-revolutionary attacks and slander against the leaders of the party and the Soviet government because of his hostility towards them. The investigation was aimed at finding out whether Lisogor was a Gestapo agent sent on a special assignment by German intelligence to a partisan detachment. As a result, this was established.

I wonder how the investigators established that Ivan Lisogor was a German spy? Only on the basis of his own confession. Undoubtedly, the poor man was severely beaten, and he had to not only slander himself, but also slander his comrades in the 46th Ukrainian battalion - Breitman-Petrenko, Klimov, Tokman and some others, who together with them fled to the partisans. The whole piquancy of the situation lay in the fact that Mikhail Iosifovich Breitman, who served in the battalion under the name Petrenko, was a real Jew. The Chekists had to come up with the idea that, having been exposed as a Jew during a medical examination, Breitman, under the threat of execution, was recruited as an agent by the battalion commander. Then he was allegedly sent to a concentration camp for Jews in the town of Maly Trostenets under the supervision of

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worker's house, but in fact he was a cadet of a special "Gestapo school" for Jewish agents. Mikhail Iosifovich told in detail (or signed what the investigators dictated to him) about the numerous poisons that the German instructors showed him, mentioned, in particular, some pink poisonous liquid, but the trouble is: when Breitman was arrested, no poisons, explosives or other weapons of "sabotage and terrorist activities" were not found. Also, the comrades whom he slandered pointed to the battalion commander as a recruiter, but no one else from the German intelligence officers

could not name. When the conversation turned to their colleague Balakin, allegedly sent on a spy mission to another partisan detachment, the arrested began to talk about things that were completely fantastic. As if the chief of staff of the battalion, the Estonian officer Melders, repeatedly gathered them together and, contrary to all the rules of secrecy, set up Balakin as an example, allegedly obtaining valuable information.

In a memorandum, Baer and Ivanov were forced to state that "all these Gestapo agents could not carry out practical activities on a large scale, with the exception of denunciations to the Gestapo soldiers during their stay in the Ukrainian battalion" (RGASPI, f. 625, op. 1, D.28, l.445-458). Do not invent, in fact, failed sabotage and murder.

The Chekists preferred not to think about the fact that the Germans would never risk releasing behind the front line or to the partisans an agent they absolutely did not trust. And they would never have believed the Jew Breitman because of the mere race, which made it not only pointless, but also obviously dangerous for the agent to return to the German side.

Lisogor, Breitman-Petrenko, Klimov and Tokman were shot. This is how the drunken quarrel between the uk fighter and the partisan Levina ended. Probably out of jealousy or just drunk, Ivan Mikhailovich really hit Le

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guilt. Maybe at the same time he went over one of the party leaders. But it is possible that his "counter-revolutionary conversations" were entirely invented by Levin in order to give the denunciation greater weight. And then - arrest, beatings, confessions dictated by the investigators and a quick execution. It is impossible to admit that in a situation where there was no evidence against them, the unfortunate people suddenly changed their minds overnight and admitted that they were German agents, thereby signing their own death warrant.

In 1942, the head of the Intelligence Directorate of the Central Headquarters of the partisan movement, Argunov, compiled a "Reference on provocative methods of fighting partisans", in particular, it was said: "To the detachment of Comrade. Rusakova made her way as a nurse, not a German spy, who had several surnames - Itkina, Dynkina, Ozer. She entered into the confidence of the commissar of the detachment, Filipovsky, and with his help arranged another German spy, Shishko, as the deputy commander of the detachment. In one of the battles, they killed the commander of the detachment Rusakov, operative worker Yemelyanov and the best intelligence officer.



chik squad - Fighter. The spies were exposed and shot...

The Germans use the Jews to be thrown into the partisan detachments as scouts, hoping that the partisans, knowing that the Germans are cruelly persecuting the Jews, will show them more confidence... |

German intelligence ... especially beautiful women and girls, supplies them with poisonous substances with the task of joining the detachment, gaining the trust of the command staff and then poisoning "(RGASPI, F. 625, op. 1, file 37, l. 10-11, 12).

It is striking that all the real or imaginary surnames of the "German spy" are Jewish, and the whole story with the death of the commander and the "best people" of the detachment looks more like some kind of intra-detachment showdown. And besides, how can you determine for sure today whether Rusakov and his comrades were killed by the Germans and the police, or by Shishko and Itkina? Quicker

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In total, in this case we are dealing with another case of anti-Semite phobia among partisans.

On January 15, 1943, the head of the propaganda department of the political department of the United Brigades of the southwestern regions of the Oryol region, where there was its own partisan republic, Ivan Gutorov wrote to the headquarters of the partisan movement: detachments, but few (judging by the results) are engaged in undercover reconnaissance among the population and especially enemy troops. Due to their youth and experience, they are completely incapable of working with double spies and are usually shot very hastily, as, for example, the Jewish girls Ira and Eva Chernyak, the latter allegedly even graduated from the Gestapo school in Bryansk. It is also bad that the special departments and residents working in our region do not know the German language and therefore cannot use German documents" (RGASPI, F. 625, op. 1, d. 10, l. 30).

As to the fact that in the case of the unfortunate Chernyak sisters, the inability of the Chekists to work with double agents was manifested, Gutorov was conscientiously mistaken. The poor Jews were not and could not be any German agents. Here is one of two. Either the sisters managed to hide their Jewishness, and they agreed to become German agents only in order to get into the partisan detachment. In this case, they would certainly have told about their contacts with the enemy to the command of the detachment. It is unbelievable that the Germans would have recruited the Chernyak sisters as agents if they knew for sure that they were Jewish. After all, an agent must enjoy the trust of his masters, and the Germans had no confidence in the Jews. On the contrary, there was an almost complete certainty that people who miraculously escaped "finishing"

solution", will immediately reveal themselves to the partisans and will not think of working for their executioners. But, most likely, the sisters were not anyone's agents, but simply became a victim of a provocation by special officers who decided to catch

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a couple of German spies. And the story of the non-existent "Gestapo school" was invented by the NKVD. After all, in reality, the Abwehr schools, and not the Gestapo, prepared the Germans for agents! Of course, the Chekists were not going to use as "double agents" the "Jewish spy" invented by them. The Chernyak sisters were simply shot as quickly as possible so that they would not have time to recant the confessions beaten out of them. |

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Boris Sokolov

THIRD REICH

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BORIS SOKOLOV

THIRD  
REICH  
— MYTHS |

AND REALITY

The book of the famous writer and historian, the destroyer of myths, Boris Sokolov, is dedicated to the state | a gift that existed for a little over 12 years, but left a terrible memory of itself among all mankind. Not surprisingly, the history of the Third | The Reich was overgrown with many myths. From the book, the reader will learn what were the true goals of the leaders of the Reich, how the Second World War was being prepared, how many victims of the Holocaust really were, and how the number of 6 million Jews who died as a result was born | Hitler's genocide, how many people lost mankind in the war unleashed by Hitler, sob- | did Stalin dare to attack Hitler, was Hitler | commander and whether Germany could have won the war, what was the essence of the racial doctrine of national socialism and how the Nazis treated different peoples, what were the real and imaginary crimes of the Third Reich and whether there were gas chambers in Auschwitz, how Hitler's personality influenced the organization Nazi state that in this state was from the ancient mystical teachings, and |. what is from the rational twentieth century, and much more.

This book is intended for anyone who wants to unravel the main mysteries of the Third Reich and the Second | world war.

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